

## THE TIMES Tomorrow

21st century pupils  
Alan Franks predicts computers will replace teachers in the coming techno-revolution



Attention!  
Suzy Menkes reviews soldiers' uniforms that showed women how to dress to kill.  
Class distinctions  
Roger Scruton on what it means to be bourgeois

## MPs angry at former police chief

Sir George Terry, recently retired chief constable of Sussex, faces the prospect of being reported to the Commons for contempt if he continues to thwart a parliamentary investigation.

## Maxwell fixes Mirror deadline

Mr Robert Maxwell, chairman of Pergamon Press, has set a deadline of 5 pm tomorrow for acceptance of his £80m bid for Mirror Group Newspapers. The offer has been made unconditional.

## Proposals for reparations

The Government is considering giving courts power to order reparation to victims as a separate sanction in possible criminal justice bills. Another proposal is for action against mismanagement of justice in magistrates' courts.

## Terry chosen

England's cricket selectors have included the uncapped Hampshire batsman, Paul Terry, in the third Test match starting in Leeds on Thursday. Cook and Allott have also been brought in, and Gatting, Foster and Miller omitted.

## Caning ban

Cardinal Basil Hume has recommended that all Roman Catholic Schools in his diocese of Westminster should ban caning, adding weight to the prohibition lobby.

## Rock fans riot

Hundreds of rock fans terrorized a village in the Irish Republic during almost two hours of drunken rioting in which policemen were besieged in their station.

## Pirate brutality

Piracy against Vietnamese refugees is declining, but has never been more savage, with rape and violence the object, rather than robbery.

## Costa denial

Spain and Britain denied reports of a deal to arrange the extradition of five men from the Costa del Sol.

## Rosberg wins

Keke Rosberg, of Finland, won the inaugural Dallas Grand Prix to score the first victory for the Williams-Honda ahead of Rene Arnoux and Elio De Angelis. Britain's Nigel Mansell was sixth.

## Leader, page 11

Letters: On higher education from Professor F. G. B. Miller; countryside management from Mr. A. W. Wood and Mr. S. M. Alexander; on the police Bill from Sir Eric S. Johnston. Leading articles: Trade union monopoly; Sir Keith Joseph and the Open University; Corruption in the USSR. Features, pages 8-10: Begin, unknown factor in the Israeli election; the shoplifter drift from Labour; Ken Livingstone's mirror image. Spectrum: computer whizz kids. Monday Page: Kimono and Co. Special Report, pages 14-16: The new drive for education and training in industry. Obituary, page 12: Dame Flora Robson.

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# Service chiefs tell Thatcher they oppose shake-up

By Rodney Cowton, Defence Correspondent

The Chief of Defence Staff and the Chiefs of Staff of the Royal Navy, the Army and the Royal Air Force have indicated their right to go over the head of the Secretary of State for Defence and make representations directly to the Prime Minister.

They did so last week, to make known their concern about the top-level reorganization of the Ministry of Defence which Mr Michael Heseltine is about to impose on them. It is believed that at the meetings Mrs Margaret Thatcher effectively backed Mr Heseltine.

The Service chiefs are thought to believe that the new organization will be less effective than the existing one and will damage the morale and efficiency of the individual Services.

Mr Heseltine's detailed scheme is due to be published in a White Paper later this month. The outline, however, has been known since March, when he released a consultative document setting out the broad thrust of his plan.

His general purpose is to achieve a more effective organization and some high-level staff economies by removing the policy-forming staffs from the individual Services and concentrating them directly under the Chief of Defence Staff.

He consulted only a handful of his closest associates and even Field Marshal Sir Edwin Bramall, Chief of Defence Staff, was not involved until a few days before the document was published.

Mr Edwin had been thought to be generally sympathetic to the concept of strengthening the role of the Chief of Defence Staff, and it is significant that he has joined the single Service chiefs not only in making representations to Mrs Thatcher, but also in signing with them a paper addressed directly to Mr Heseltine, pressing severe reservations about his scheme.

The first meeting with Mrs Thatcher was attended by Mr Heseltine, Sir Clive Whitmore, Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Defence, and Field Marshal Bramall.

That was followed by a second meeting at which they were joined by Admiral Sir John Fieldhouse, Chief of the Naval Staff and First Sea Lord, General Sir John Stanier, Chief of the General Staff, and Air Chief Marshal Sir Keith Williamson, Chief of the Air Staff.

Notwithstanding the fact that the Government is going to override their objections, the general impression is that it is unlikely that any of the service chiefs will resign.

Since March a steering group, led by Sir Clive and Field Marshal Bramall, has been working out the detail of the reorganization. It is believed that there have been some small compromises, such as allowing the individual Service chiefs to retain token policy staffs, but these have not been enough to relieve the anxieties of the Services.

The chiefs have had a long-standing right to make representations to the Prime Minister when they feel the ability of the Services to do their job effectively is threatened.

It is thought that the last time they took that action was when the defence budget came under severe pressure in the early months of Sir John Nott's period as Secretary of State for Defence.

A spokesman for the Ministry of Defence said last night: "Mr Heseltine will be announcing decisions in a White Paper shortly and we are not prepared to discuss either its contents or the details of discussions which have led to its conclusions."



Cup of Joy: John McEnroe the proud winner of the men's singles trophy (photograph: Ian Stewart)

## Envoy faces expulsion if Nigerian links are proved in kidnap plot

By Henry Stanhope, Diplomatic Correspondent

Ministers, led by Mrs Thatcher, were said last night to be taking an "extremely grave" view of the Dikko affair, reflecting a sense of public outrage over what looks like a further abuse of diplomatic privilege.

The Foreign Office was retaining from overnight while the police investigation into last week's kidnap plot was continuing.

It is unlikely to involve breaking off relations with Nigeria, a measure which has been adopted only three times since 1945 - against Albania, Idi Amin Uganda today and April's breach with Libya was, moreover, the first over an abuse of diplomatic privilege.

Nigeria is not only Britain's biggest trading partner in black Africa but one of the biggest in the world outside Europe and the United States.

The £800m worth of British exports in 1983 was down on previous years because of the recession in Lagos and the 12,000-strong British community is little more than half its former size.

On the other hand, relations as Britain is to sever a historic connexion, it is felt, that a formal protest, however strongly worded, would not be enough.

A more likely British reaction would be to expel the Nigerian High Commissioner, Major-General Hamanaka, even if the High Commission itself were cleared of official complicity in the plot.

This would almost certainly be followed by a tit-for-tat expulsion of Mr W. E. Hamilton Whyte, the British High Commissioner in Lagos, who heads an unusually large staff, including technical assistance personnel, of 150.

If the Nigerian authorities confounded public suspicion by proving they had no involvement, and, moreover, cooperated with the police investigation, the Government might find it hard to justify such action.

But the undisputed fact that an attempt was made once more to take advantage of the immunity provided for diplomats and official baggage under the 1961 Vienna Convention, will revive calls for a review of the whole system.

There is still considerable unease over last month's disclosure that 546 serious crimes have been committed by members of the foreign diplomatic service in this country during the past 10 years.

The Foreign Secretary, Sir Geoffrey Howe, who was said to have been in contact with the Home Secretary Mr Leon Brittan, throughout yesterday, has so far failed to give any breakdown of this figure among the embassies.

Mr Howe takes against offenders in future or against those who are still in this country following offences would be matched by a similar response in Lagos, Britain, like most other Western countries, insists that its representatives obey the laws of the land.

The Nigerians have for some years topped the annual league of these diplomats who have refused to pay parking fines in Britain.

## Wimbledon champions keep titles

By Rex Bellamy

For the first time in the history of the Wimbledon championships the defending champions and top seeds won all five events. John McEnroe beat Jimmy Connors, 6-1, 6-2 in yesterday's final of the men's singles. No final has been so one-sided since 1938, when Donald Budge beat Bunny Austin, 6-1, 6-0, 6-3.

There was a second link, too, between McEnroe and Budge. Between the two, no American had successfully defended the men's singles championship.

This year's Wimbledon, unique in another way, too. The attendance of 391,673 was a record - but a record Wimbledon can beat any time they like. The premises are so congested, though, that they do not wish to admit most customers.

This year's winners at Wimbledon, were also a record: £120,000 for McEnroe, and £108,400 for Martina Navratilova, the women's champion.

Miss Navratilova won the women's championship on Saturday by beating Chris Lloyd, 7-6, 6-2 in a thrilling match. Yesterday a British player John Lloyd, shared the mixed doubles championship.

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## Detectives question Dikko in hospital

By Richard Dowden

Scotland Yard Anti-Terrorist Squad officers began questioning Alhaji Umaru Dikko, the Nigerian former minister, last night as he recovered in hospital from the effects of drugs forcibly administered during his attempted kidnapping on Friday.

A spokesman for Scotland Yard said that the questioning would continue today and would be a long drawn out process. It is highly unlikely that anyone will be charged with the kidnapping until the interview is completed.

A bulletin issued earlier by the Herts and Essex Hospital, Bishop's Cleeve, said Alhaji Dikko was making steady progress, but that he had a chest infection and was in a weakened state. It appears that his abductors injected him with Pentothal, a barbiturate anaesthetic, which is used by vets to kill animals.

The Government, under extreme pressure from backbenchers and opposition MPs to take firm action, is expected to make a statement in the Commons today, or tomorrow.

In Lagos the Nigerian military government stated again yesterday that it was "not involved in any way" with the kidnapping attempt, but it confirmed that it had ordered the impounding of the British Caledonian Boeing 747 and its passengers and 22 crew in reprisal for the detention of the

Nigerian Airways 707 plane at Stansted airport.

A government spokesman expressed disquiet at what he called the British Government's insinuation that Lagos was behind the kidnapping attempt.

Nigerian newspapers yesterday unanimously acclaimed the kidnapping attempt. One, *The Sunday Herald*, criticized Britain for its "aggressive, clearly insolent diplomatic posture".

Four men, two Israelis and two Nigerians, are still being held at the high security police station at Paddington Green, London, under the prevention of Terrorism Act. The Israelis, Mr Lou Shapiro, aged 44, and Mr Felix Ayal, aged 32, are allegedly mercenaries and former members of the Mossad, the Israeli secret service.

Another 13 people, including a diplomat from the Nigerian High Commission, were arrested but have been released without charge.

The Israeli found in the crate with Alhaji Dikko had training as a medic and was equipped with syringes and drugs. A rubber tube had been inserted into Alhaji Dikko's throat to help his breathing and smaller plastic tubes were taped to his body so that drugs and fluids could be administered directly into his bloodstream.

One anaesthetist at the hospital expressed doubt that he would have survived the journey to Lagos.

## Foreign Office pays penalty for its pension rules

## Emperor's portrait up for sale

From Richard Bassett

Vienna

The pride of the British Embassy's art collection here, a portrait presented by an Austrian emperor to the son of one of Britain's most distinguished diplomatic families, is due to be sold in private at Foreign Office rules on widows' pensions.

The portrait of Emperor Franz Josef of Austria, by Casimir Podchawski was given to Sir Horace Rumbold, 81, on his retirement as Ambassador to the Imperial Court of Vienna in 1900. It is the only known painting of the Habsburg Emperor wearing the Order of the Garter.

Sir Horace, whose life in Vienna is vividly described in his *Recollections of a Diplomat*, was probably Britain's most popular ambassador in Austria, unstintingly dedicated to furthering good relations between Britain and what he regarded as "her most loyal and steadfast ally".

The presentation of the portrait to him, showing the Order of the Garter granted to the Emperor by Queen Victoria, was a unique privilege expressing the Austrian monarch's esteem of Britain's envoy.

The painting has since adorned the grey saloon of the palatial embassy residence in Metternichgasse. But with the death of Sir Horace's grandson, Sir Anthony Rumbold, a diplomat who also served in Vienna as Ambassador and who died last December, the future of the painting has been threatened by a bureaucratic wrangle over pensions for Sir Anthony's two widows.

Because his first wife, Felicity, Lady Rumbold, divorced him before his death, no widow's pension under Foreign Office rules was available to her. Pauline, Lady Rumbold, his second wife, however, was also considered ineligible as she was not married to Sir Anthony while he was a serving diplomat.

Despite appeals from both Lady Rumbolds, the Foreign Office remained adamant that neither was eligible even for an ex gratia payment. The first Lady Rumbold died last week, but in order to secure an income for Sir Anthony's surviving widow, Sir Anthony's heir, Sir Henry Rumbold has decided to sell the portrait and a painting of the First Earl of Shaftesbury, attributed to Sir Peter Lely and also on loan to the embassy residence.

The second Lady Rumbold told *The Times* that the sale was regrettable but the only way of drawing attention to an unjust rule. There would have been no question of a sale had Sir Anthony's first wife been paid a pension. The Foreign Office's behaviour was a disgrace, Lady Rumbold said. The Rumbolds had served Britain's diplomatic corps for more than three centuries.

News of the sale was greeted with gloom by Britain's present Ambassador to Vienna, Mr Michael Alexander, who described it as a tragedy. The painting was a unique symbol of Anglo-Austrian friendship, admired by many Austrian visitors to the residence. It would not be easily replaced.

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## Deadline sought for miners deal

By Barrie Clement

Peace talks aimed at ending the 17-week miners' strike resume today at the beginning of the most crucial week since the stoppage began.

Negotiations, which started at the end of last week, continue in an atmosphere of cautious optimism, despite an uncompromising speech by Mr Arthur Scargill, president of the miners' union at the weekend.

It is hoped an outline deal can be drawn up in time for tomorrow's meeting of the executive of the National Union of Mineworkers which holds its annual conference on Wednesday and Thursday in Sheffield.

If there is no settlement to put to union delegates, who are overwhelmingly militant, the union will dig in for a strike which could extend into the winter.

Some right-wingers on the executive said yesterday that any compromise deal should be put to the membership in the form of a ballot. But the left's view that the annual conference should remain the sovereign body, is likely to prevail.

Mr Arthur Scargill has written to some national newspapers requesting a right of reply to a series of advertisements taken out last week by the National Coal Board, criticising the miners' strike.

Mr Scargill, who estimated that the advertisements cost £500,000 of taxpayers' money, is seeking the same space to put his point of view but makes it clear that the union will not pay.

In a letter addressed to a number of newspaper editors, Mr Scargill says the National Union of Mineworkers needs all its funds to support members who are suffering severe hardship.

He says the board's advertisement contained "distortions and outright untruths".

Dockers' leaders will be urged today to call a national strike in protest at the British Steel Corporation's use of contract labour to move iron ore from Immingham Docks, South Humberside, to Southampton.

Mr John Connolly, national officer of the Transport and General Workers' Union, accused the corporation of breaching the statutory dock labour scheme.

He will ask the National Dockers Committee to authorize the stoppage. A mass meeting of Immingham and Grimsby dockers has also been called for today.

Dockworkers have refused to handle the ore because of the miners' strike and train drivers have also blacked the imports.

The transport union has already threatened a national stoppage if the National Association of Port Employers succeeds in persuading the Government to abolish the 36-year-old labour scheme.

## Portfolio Card passed on wins £40,000

When Mr Justin Everard felt bored with *The Times* Portfolio competition after nearly two weeks of checking his numbers, he gave his card to one of his flatmates, on one condition. In the event of a win they would split the proceeds.

On Saturday they won, with Mr Everard's card, the £40,000 dividend prize which ended on that day. The prize, based on the total number of points accumulated throughout last week, was double its usual £20,000 because no one had claimed it for the week before last. But it was Mr Everard's friend, Mr Richard Hodgson, who had thought the effort of working the figures out worthwhile.

Mr Everard, aged 22, an English graduate of York University and Mr Hodgson, who is 25, and a trainee solicitor, share a flat with others in Rostrevor Road, Fulham, London. Yesterday they were celebrating with a special toast to Mr Hodgson for his work.

The money may go on cars and investment in the stock market.

Three other *Times* readers with varying degrees of interest in the stock market prices page on which Portfolio is based, share the £2,000 daily prize for Saturday.

They are Mr David Tonkin, 53, of Pear Tree Road, Didsen Purtilen, Southampton, an industrial fire and safety officer who always reads the page because he likes the stock market; Mr Andrew Hartmann, 46, an office manager of Hamilton Court, Hamilton Road, Ealing, London who occasionally reads the page when he is following a particular company; and Mr Robert Vallis, 69, a retired television shop owner of Belmont Road, Maidenhead, who hardly ever looks at the stock exchange. "But I do now that I'm doing Portfolio."

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## Tourists are urged to save water

By Pearce Wright

Science Editor

The Thames Water Authority yesterday imposed restrictions affecting much of the Home Counties on the use of hoses and sprinklers, as the weathermen forecast a possible break in the baking conditions by the middle of the week.

But the heatwave should continue today over much of the country, repeating temperatures well into the 80s in many inland places.

The hottest place of all was Northolt, Middlesex, where the temperature reached 88F, when Athens was sizzling at a mere 82F. The only exceptions were the East Coast between Norfolk and Yorkshire, where temperatures remained in the 60s, and part of the Cornish coast.

As water restrictions are enforced by a growing number of suppliers, affecting more than nine million consumers in Britain, questions arise about the lessons learnt since the scorching summer of 1975.

The most severe crackdown on conservation of water restrictions has begun in the Southwest. Special water patrols are in operation, immediate prosecution is promised for using hoses, and tourists are being urged to save water as the summer rush gets under way.

Reservoirs are already below the levels of 1976, showing that water authorities have failed to learn the storage lessons of 1976. Capacity is still too small.

Comparison with events eight years ago is inevitable, since those were the worst in 200 years since records began, but that was the result of a 16-month period of abnormal weather from May 1975 to

## Splash out on an auld acquaintance.

MACKINLAY'S  
FINEST SCOTCH WHISKY

STILL BLENDED BY A MACKINLAY, FIVE GENERATIONS LATER.







## Ex-police chief faces contempt report over polygraph clients

By Richard Evans

A recently retired chief constable faces the embarrassing prospect of being reported to the House of Commons for contempt if he continues to thwart a parliamentary investigation.

Sir George Terry, head of the Sussex force until last summer, is now chairman of the first British firm to offer a lie detector service and in May appeared before the Commons Employment Select Committee which is inquiring into the implications of the instrument.

But he refused repeated requests from MPs to name, in public or private session, his company's clients because, he claimed, it would breach confidentiality.

Instead Sir George and two fellow directors of Polygraph Security Services agreed to discuss the committee's request at a board meeting and to write back.

After considering the firm's

response last week the all-party committee, which has wide powers to send for people, papers and records, decided that it was totally inadequate and is now demanding that Sir George, at present on holiday in Spain, provide the clients' names.

But Mr Jeremy Barrett, managing director of the London-based firm, who appeared with Sir George before MPs, said: "We cannot go any further. The committee asked us to name all our clients, but we are not at liberty to do that."

He said that one of the firm's clients had threatened legal action if exposed and others "have rung up and told us to shut up".

If Sir George, aged 63 and his

colleagues refuse to pass on the names the committee could order them to appear before it and report them to the House for contempt.

At least one MP is prepared to take the issue "to the ultimate", believing that the committee should fully assert its rights.

Some MPs believe that a "totally unacceptable precedent" would be set if the company is allowed to get away with not providing the information requested by a select committee. They believe that its inquiry would be incomplete without examining a client of the company.

Polygraph Security Services, set up last year, has claimed that it has provided a lie detector service for 65 companies and that it has had a 100 per cent success rate.

Mr Barrett said: "I don't see what can be gained by the committee knowing who these clients are. They are saying 'give us the list and we will then decide whether or not to give it confidentiality'. I really can't act on that basis."

## Cardinal supports anti-caning lobby

By Colin Hughes

Further pressure was put on the Government yesterday to ban caning in schools when Cardinal Basil Hume, Roman Catholic Archbishop of Westminster, recommended that all Roman Catholic schools in his diocese should end the practice.

Cardinal Hume's strong statement, though directed at schools in his own area, is certain to influence all 2,500 Catholic schools in England and Wales to end the use of the cane.

Since Catholic schools educate a tenth of the country's pupils, it gives strong support to campaigners in the state sector who seek a total ban.

The Government's present

policy, to introduce an opt out system whereby parents can

insist that their children are not caned, has been condemned as unworkable.

Only last week the National Association of Head Teachers, which is prominent in expressing concern over school discipline, criticized the proposal for creating two kinds of school pupil: those who can be beaten, and those who can not.

The Westminster Council for Diocesan Affairs issued a statement approved by Cardinal Hume which said that, though caning among its 225 schools had declined recently, the time had come for a more decisive response.

It emphasized the unanimous decision of the European Court of Human Rights against corporal punishment.

## Faulty valve surgeons 'should tell'

Surgeons who fitted patients with faulty replacement heart valves are coming under increasing pressure to tell them of the risk they may be facing.

A total of 278 patients were fitted with the valves from a faulty batch made by Britain's largest supplier, Shiley Ltd, of Windsor, in 1981.

So far five people have died in Britain after struts supporting the valves suffered metal fatigue. Altogether 60 people are believed to have died worldwide.

A circular from the Department of Health warned surgeons of the dangers a year ago, and advised them to inform their patients. Many doctors have been reluctant to do so, claiming that the stress of such warnings, and of replacement operations, would be greater than doing nothing.

This approach has been backed by the manufacturers, a subsidiary of the Pfizer pharmaceuticals group. The company says its aim is to avoid raising fears.

Thousands of the Shiley valves were returned after the fault was first discovered last year.

Yesterday Dame Elizabeth Aikroyd, chairman of the Patients Association, called for people with the valves to be identified.

"Patients should be told about this," she said. "If it is possible to test the valves externally then the people who had them should be called in to have whatever checks possible."

"People should be told in a responsible way of the risks and left to make the choices themselves."

The son of one woman who died after a faulty valve collapsed is threatening to sue Shiley Ltd to force the company to help other patients involved.

Mr Robert Inston's mother, Beryl, died in March, eight months after the faulty valve was implanted, at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Birmingham.

A spokesman for the DHSS said it was powerless to order doctors to tell patients at risk of the situation. It was a matter for their clinical judgment, she said.

Professor Sir Geoffrey Slaney, president of the Royal College of Surgeons, and head of the department of surgery at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, said: "The general view is to take the patient into confidence, but this varies from surgeon to surgeon."

Artificial heart valves are used to replace irreparably damaged natural valves. Shiley valves are used in about one-quarter of the 3,500 valve replacement operations carried out in Britain each year.

## Fire destroys Bray studios

Fire yesterday destroyed the Bray Studios in Berkshire, where the Hammer horror films of Dracula and Frankenstein were made.

The world's biggest film set, the James Bond 007 studio at Pinewood studios, in Buckinghamshire, was destroyed by fire last month.

## Crash death

Anthony Goodwin, aged 17, of Watson Crescent, Wakefield, a Junior Leader from the Royal Corps of Transport at Alamein Barracks, Driffield, East Yorkshire, was killed yesterday and five companions were injured, in a collision with a police car near Driffield.

## Peregrine pair

A pair of peregrine falcons, whose courtship and mating in Gloucestershire was followed by more than 15,000 people, have successfully reared two young.

## Channel record

Lydon Dunsbee, aged 16, of Salisbury Road, Dover, established a new cross-channel swimming record from France to England of eight hours 23 minutes on Saturday.



Boyish admiration for the rose of the year "Amber Queen" at the RNRS Show (photograph: Bill Warhurst).

## Show provides a rose-coloured spectacle

By Janet Browne

The Royal National Rose Society, in conjunction with the Rose Growers' Association, held a successful national summer show at the weekend in the Gardens of the Rose at Chiswell Green, St Albans, Hertfordshire.

The theme for Rose '84 was "Brighten Britain with Roses". The standard of exhibits was high with more entries than last year.

Main prize-winners in the amateur

section included Mrs A Bird, of Market Harborough, Robert Shipman Memorial Class and Mr F L Birch, of Safford, W C Thorn Memorial Cup both for old garden roses; Mr W D Gobbee, of London SW12, Elsie Toogood Memorial Class; Mr F Owen, of St Briavels, Lincoln Cup and Edward Mawley, Challenge Cup; Mr J Worley, of Bolton, S W Burgess Memorial Cup, and Mr M G Double, of Ewell, RNRS Trophy all for modern garden roses.

Classes restricted to amateurs growing not more than 1,000 modern roses: Mr M. Andrews,

Bexley, Nicholson Challenge Cup and Brayford Challenge Cup; Mr H. V. Mitchell, of Marnborough, Charles Stanfield Memorial Challenge Bowl; Mrs M. R. Stewart, of Buckhurst Hill, Alfred Hewlett Memorial Class; Mr A. J. Bractridge, of Ramshot, H. R. Darlington Memorial Cup.

Exhibitors growing not more than 500 modern rose bushes: Mr M. Thompson, of Rhodda, Sam McGreevy Challenge Cup and Edward J. Holland Memorial Cup; Mr A. B. Roberts, of Foynton, Leslie Annis Memorial Class.

Leading winners for growers of not more than 250 bushes: Mr J. C.

Bell, Gilbert Burch Memorial Class; and Mr A. R. Shields, Slaughter Memorial Cup, both Melton Mowbray.

Growers of not more than 150 bushes: Mrs H. A. Thompson, of Lincoln, Charles Rigg Cup; Mr V. R. Edwards, of Cirencester, Cocker Cup; Mr R. Christie, of Watford, Kathleen Louise Mahaffy Class for not more than 100 bushes; Mr C. Griffiths, of Buckingham, Albert E. Griffiths Memorial Class for less than 50 roses; Mr E. B. Schofield, of Frank Naylor Memorial Class Trophy for previous non-first prize winners.

## Plastic bullet death case

A Belfast mother will accuse the Government of breaching the European Convention on Human Rights in a hearing tomorrow before the European Commission of Human Rights in Strasbourg because her son was killed by a plastic bullet fired by a soldier in October, 1976. He was among a group of young people near his home throwing stones at soldiers. He died in hospital of severe brain damage.

Backed by the National Council for Civil Liberties and represented by Lord Gifford, QC, Mrs Stewart will argue that the European Convention which guarantees a right to life.

## Explosives inquiry

Detectives were last night questioning three men arrested at Scratchwood Motorway services on the M1 after the discovery of a haul of explosives there.

The men were arrested after an undercover operation in which a detective posed as a safe-blower.

It is understood police have recovered 200lb of gelignite,

several detonators and other equipment stolen from a quarry.

A third man was arrested in simultaneous police raids in the Midlands.

Scotland Yard says inquiries are continuing in London and the Midlands. The serious Crimes Squad officers were acting on information from the Yard's anti-terrorist branch.

## Irish police besieged by drunken rock fans

From Richard Ford, Belfast

Hundreds of rock fans brought terror to a small Irish village yesterday during almost two hours of drunken rioting in which policemen were besieged in their stations.

The 12 officers on duty at Slane in Co Meath, were surrounded in the building for an hour as fans arriving for a Bob Dylan concert hurled abuse at them and attacked the building and other premises in the picturesque village with bricks and stones. As hundreds of reinforcements were rushed to the area from seven locations as far away as Dundalk and Dublin, the crowds went on the rampage, setting fire to two cars and a police minibus.

Firemen attempting to extinguish the fires were attacked with bottles and stones while the fans attempted to interfere with their engines. Firemen had to use force to protect themselves from fighting youngsters and at one stage turned hoses on the crowd in self defence.

Windows and doors in the police station were smashed during the trouble, in which 15 civilians and three police officers were injured.

The disturbances finally ended early yesterday with a baton charge by police reinforcements but hours later, as villagers cleared up, there was anger at lack of policemen on duty throughout Saturday and at the 1 am extensions given to local bars. One villager said: "The police were run out of the village. They were totally ineffective and there was nothing they could do. I would think they were scared witless. The people were drinking, and were dragged up all day long."

Seven people were arrested during the rioting, which has put in doubt future concerts at Slane Castle near-by.

● A youth aged 19 from Dublin died in the Bays yesterday as he attempted to swim from a camp site to Slane Castle for the rock concert.

This advertisement is published by J. Henry Schroder Wagg & Co. Limited on behalf of Enterprise Oil plc.

## IMPORTANT MESSAGE FOR SHAREHOLDERS

## Do not tender any shares to RTZ

Dear Shareholder,

As you are aware, RTZ owns 14.7 per cent of the share capital of Enterprise and is now offering to buy a further 15.1 per cent at up to 110p per share (partly paid). On 3rd July we advised shareholders to take no action in respect of this offer until they had heard further from us. I am now writing to give you the considered advice of your Board and J. Henry Schroder Wagg & Co. Limited whom we have appointed as our financial advisers.

### Enterprise shares are an excellent investment

The offer for sale prospectus highlighted Enterprise's investment attractions—the quality and spread of its exploration and production interests, the experience of its management team, the strength of its balance sheet and cash flow, its usable tax capacity and its prospects for expansion.

City and press reaction to the Company was favourable. The price at which the shares were offered for sale was considered attractive. The underwriting was easily completed. In the event, the offer for sale was substantially under-subscribed due to a sudden change in market sentiment largely as a result of a softening in oil prices.

Nevertheless, the investment attractions of Enterprise at current price levels remain clear. We have been advised that a number of leading institutional investors do not intend to tender their shares as they regard them as a long-term investment. In addition, a major institution has recently announced that it has built up an interest of close to 10 per cent in the Company and has confirmed that it regards this as a long-term holding.

### RTZ's tender price is too low

RTZ has demonstrated the clear intention of acquiring the largest possible stake in Enterprise as a means of expanding its oil and gas interests. It is now seeking to achieve this commercial objective by offering a maximum price of 195p (fully paid) compared with the minimum tender price of 185p in the offer for sale to the public. This represents a premium of a mere 5 per cent.

RTZ's tender at such a low premium represents an attempt to exploit the temporarily unsettled market conditions following the offer for sale. The price in no way reflects the value of the underlying assets of the Company. Your Board, its financial advisers and market commentators consider this to be significantly higher than RTZ's tender price.

You should not allow RTZ to acquire a stake of 29.8 per cent without paying a substantial premium over the investment value of the shares.

### Enterprise has great potential as an independent British oil company

Enterprise is Britain's fifth largest oil company. We have already embarked on a programme for the vigorous development of the business. There are exciting opportunities available to us. We do not need RTZ, whose oil and gas interests are significantly smaller, to enable us to realise our potential.

We have an experienced and professional management team with considerable oil industry expertise. We have an ungaraged balance sheet and substantial resources. We are well capable of financing our own development and of achieving long-term growth in earnings and assets per share for the benefit of shareholders.

We believe that Enterprise would derive no benefit from having RTZ as a substantial minority shareholder. Indeed, RTZ is a competitor and is attempting to expand in the main area in which Enterprise will grow. We foresee potential conflicts of interest. However, we are willing to have discussions with RTZ, as with other companies, to explore whether any commercial opportunities exist which can be pursued in the interests of all our shareholders. Any such discussions with RTZ will not be made easier by its shareholding in Enterprise.

### Conclusion

Your Board and its financial advisers consider that it is not in your long-term interests for RTZ to gain control of 29.8 per cent of Enterprise.

You are strongly advised NOT TO TENDER any of your shares.

Yours faithfully,

*W. E. Bell*  
W. E. Bell  
Chairman

The above letter was sent to Enterprise Oil shareholders on Friday, July 6th 1984

## Solicitor scheme 'at risk'

The Law Society has warned the Government that plans to restrict the right of suspects to legal advice would jeopardize the scheme for duty solicitors in police stations (Frances Gibb writes).

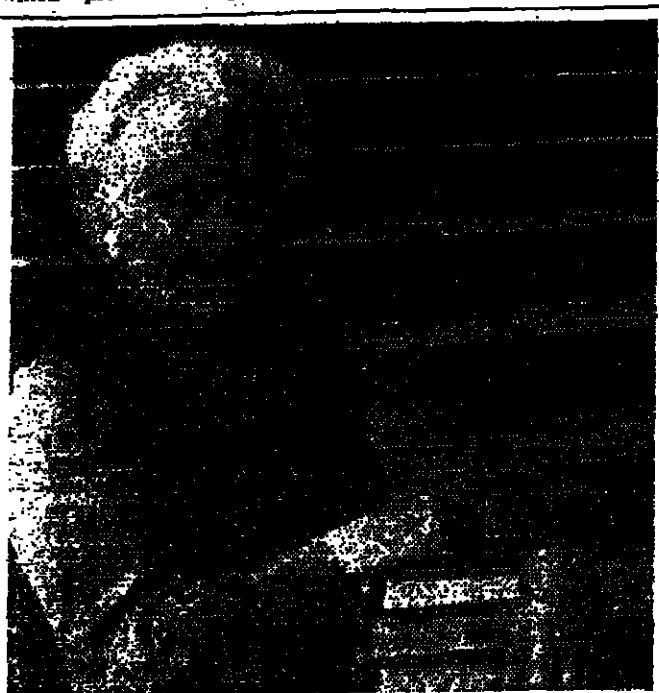
The proposals are contained in the Police and Criminal Evidence Bill, which comes before the House of Lords today.

The duty solicitor scheme, which provides suspects in

police custody with a lawyer, is allowed for in the Bill.

But the Society has told the Government it has had to review its policy on the scheme, because the Government remained unmoved by its concern.

The proposals would allow police to delay legal advice in certain cases for up to 36 hours and to hold suspects in serious cases up to 96 hours without charge, with no external review of detention before 36 hours.



Joyful learner: Mrs Martha Gordon, aged 77, from Edinburgh, who has so enjoyed her degree course at Lancaster University that she is going on to take a postgraduate course in her subject, archaeology.



## Scotland today: 1

## Aberdeen looks to oil to boost next growth wave

Against speculation that a government review could cost Scotland an important part of its self-promotional drive, Ronald Faux, our Scottish Correspondent, looks at three key areas of the country and asks: "has Scotland really been too successful?" First in the three-part series is Aberdeen.

The shops along Union Street have the quality and range of goods of a place that is not short of money. Aberdeen admits to being comfortably off, with relatively low unemployment, but is irritated by the frequently projected image of the city as an oil-rich Utopia. Somehow the swagging 10-gallon Texan outlook is totally out of place in a city with the grey architecture and sober traditions of Aberdeen.

Its heart is little changed. It is on the outskirts that oil has spread in a rash of company offices, new factories, workshops and engineering yards. The harbour is alive with ships that serve the 20 oilfields off shore. The airport is among the busiest in the country and the heliport is said to have become the biggest in the world.

In the city and surrounding region 50,000 jobs are in wholly oil-related firms, with many thousands more dependent indirectly on the oil industry itself, or on the spending power of those in the industry. Oil dominates Grampian and Grampian dominates oil with 70 per cent of all oil-related jobs in Scotland concentrated within Grampian, the driving force of which is Aberdeen.

Although the city was relatively secure before oil there is now no doubt that without the impetus of from oil Aberdeen would have felt the pinch of the recession strongly. The economic caused by long-established local industry has been outweighed by the benefits oil has brought over the past ten years. The city has absorbed with some dignity surely the most outrageous and disruptive industry to arrive on anyone's doorstep.

The city is generally confident that the backbone oil has already built will support the next wave of growth which, it is forecast, will raise the directly employed oil workforce in

Grampian to 62,500 by 1996, when some 100 oilfields will be producing in the North Sea. Most of the workers will be based in Aberdeen.

Mr Ian Wood, chairman of the Wood Group, the largest private employers in Aberdeen, said that far from cutting back a promotional effort that has been highly successful, the same system should be applied in other areas of the country in need of development.

Success must be promoted. Aberdeen and Grampian had an oil industry that depended not just on the North Sea but on the oil industry world-wide. There were other industries, too: fish processing, paper making, agriculture, chemicals and general engineering, which had sustained the area for years and could not now be left to suffer.

Grampian and oil were performing well but there was a gap between performance and potential. Although the North Sea was producing about 6 per cent of the world's oil, Scottish companies handled less than one per cent of the world market in offshore exploration, development and production. Even 1 per cent of such a market would mean billions of pounds and tens of thousands of jobs.

If they were to turn the tap, an extremely stiff and well-guarded tap at that, on this potential, the effort must be maintained. Recently the Scottish Development Agency appointed Mr John Condliffe to Aberdeen as the agency's north-eastern director. He sees the attraction of industry as a benefit not just for Aberdeen or Scotland but for the entire United Kingdom. Reducing the Scottish promotion would not nearly divert prospective clients to some other deserving English region. Far more likely they would be lost to Ireland.

Tomorrow: Glasgow

## Offer to swap Costa suspects is denied

From Harry Dehollis in Madrid and Our Foreign Staff in London

Spanish and British officials yesterday denied reports that Britain had been asked to take part in a trade-off to bring about the arrest of five men wanted for questioning about two multi-million pound robberies.

The reports had claimed that Spain had offered to extradite the five men to Britain in return for the deportation of an exiled Spanish businessman, Señor José María Ruiz-Mateos.

The Spanish Foreign Ministry said yesterday that Spain did not specifically offer to hand over those suspected of the £26m American Express gold robbery at Heathrow and the £6.4m holding at Security Express in exchange for Señor Ruiz-Mateos. It did, however, inform Britain that there could be no extradition without reciprocity, a spokesman said.

"In March, we were told of British interest in the possibilities of extraditing a group of persons living on the Costa del Sol," the spokesman pointed out. "A Spanish law of 1958 permits authorities here to consider granting extradition even without a bilateral treaty, provided the other country accepts the principle of reciprocity."

However, he added, British law does not contemplate trade-offs and is so tough it has kept Britain out of the European convention on extradition which, incidentally, Spain has not ratified either.

The spokesman said that there was no official suggestion that Britain should send Señor Ruiz-Mateos back to Spain in exchange for the High-living Britons of the Costa del Sol.

Diplomats from the two countries have been studying for some time how to improve extradition arrangements. Since 1978, when Spain abrogated the existing treaty, there has been no extradition between the countries.

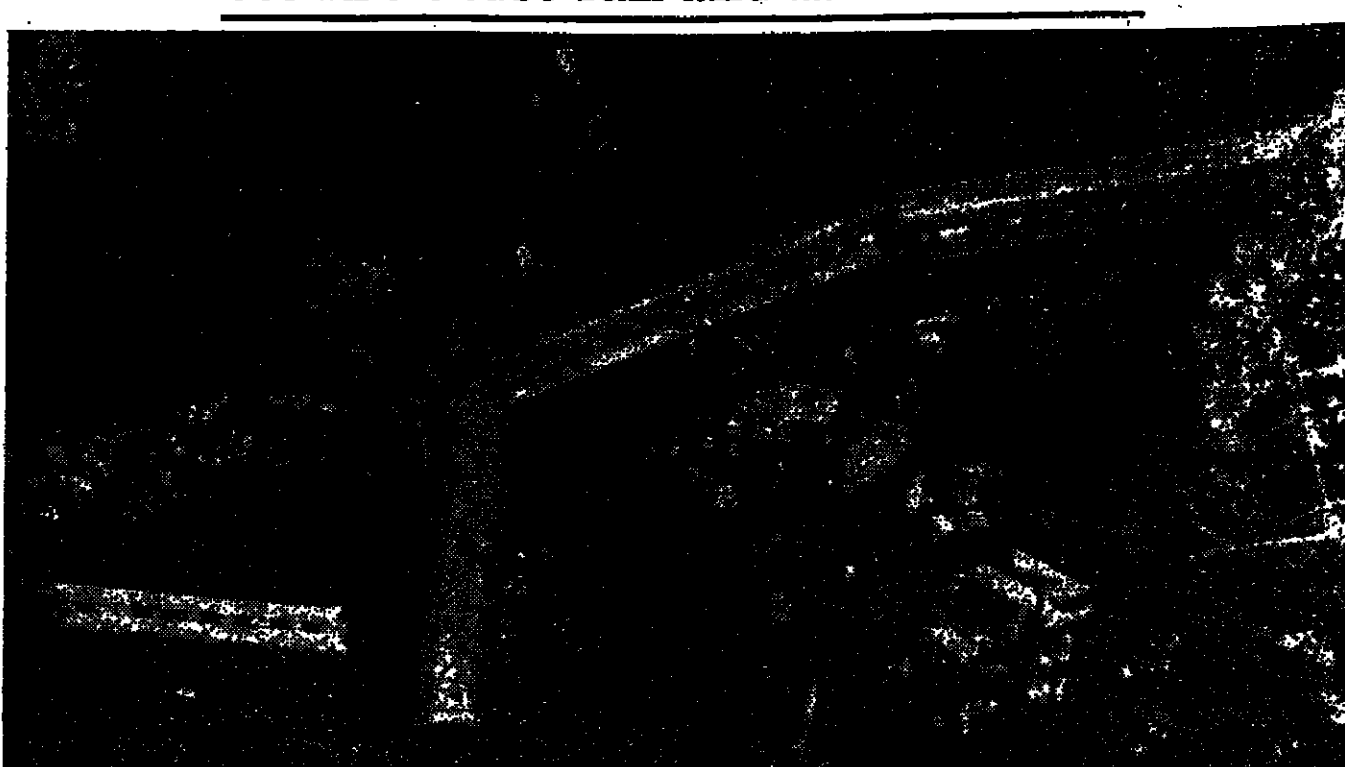
"It is unfair to say that Spain does not want to negotiate an extradition agreement," the Foreign Ministry spokesman argued. "We denounced the last treaty in 1978 because the way the British acted did not demonstrate much confidence in Spanish justice. We told Britain we wanted to make a new agreement."

Señor Ruiz-Mateos was in London after the confiscation of his huge business empire. After the expropriation and his departure from Spain, charges of fraud and other offences were filed against him here.

Exchanges between London and Madrid regarding the five men living on Spain's southern coast did not come to light until the Spanish news weekly, *El Tiempo*, revealed their whereabouts.

The Home Office confirms that it did get an unofficial approach from Spain asking for Señor Ruiz-Mateos's return earlier this year when he was in Britain. The requests were refused. Señor Ruiz-Mateos was not permitted to stay in Britain but was instead deported to West Germany, his last point of departure. He has since been arrested by the German and faces extradition proceedings there.

## Storms cause rail and river disasters



Crash havoc: A crane moving wrecked carriages after the derailment in Vermont and rescuers (right) bringing out one of the injured.

## Civil war ceremonies haunt Beirut's peace week drive

From Robert Fisk, Beirut

According to the Lebanese daily, *Al Nahar*, this week is to be the week of real peace in Beirut, although no one in the Lebanese capital will believe it until they hear the first airer flying across the city this morning.

Even the Government, however, seems astounded that its Syrian-supported security plan is bringing some form of peace to Beirut: not a shot has been heard for more than three days and Mr Walid Jumblatt, the Druze Minister of Public Works, has formally declared the city's airport open from 5am today.

But the ghosts of the civil war, which has dragged on for eight terrible years - and even now may not have ended - continued to hinder the Government's efforts. Only minutes after Lebanese troops yesterday reopened three roads which connect Muslim west with Christian east Beirut, relatives of hundreds of kidnap victims of the conflict blocked them again with burning tyres and barricades of earth.

There is largely a hopeless protest - many of their hus-



## 11 killed in Alabama as paddleboat capsizes

New York - Bad weather in the United States caused a train crash and a river disaster, in which a total of 16 people were killed.

Eleven died on Saturday when a paddleboat capsized on the Tennessee river near Huntsville, Alabama. The weather service said it was capsized by wind gusting to 70mph.

A train with 278 people on board was derailed early on Saturday near Williston, Vermont, after a culvert had been washed away during overnight flooding. Five people were

## Police tried to take black from hospital

Durban (Reuters) - Durban Supreme Court heard that a black man was assaulted with electric shocks while in police detention and that police later tried to take him away from hospital against a doctor's advice.

The police agreed not to interfere for 10 days with Alfred Mkhize, whose family had appealed to the court in an emergency action to stop police from assaulting him.

A hospital doctor said in an affidavit that Mr Mkhize, whom he was treating, had told him he was assaulted with electric shocks after police detained him on June 16 under the Internal Security Act. A judge ruled that Mr Mkhize should stay in hospital until July 17, when the case would be heard again.

## Four-car crash

Schwandorf (AP) - Two West Germans were killed and five people injured, including a young girl, when a car driven by a US soldier hit three other cars on a highway 37 miles east of Nuremberg. The soldier was in hospital with light injuries.

## Storm orphans

Moscow (AFP) - Pravda said there had been many offers of adoption from all over the Soviet Union for children orphaned by the freak cyclone which hit the region east of Moscow early last month. It was the first official admission the cyclone had claimed many lives.

## Case dropped

Windhoek (AFP) - Thirty-seven leading members and sympathizers of the South West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO) detained last month at a barbecue, will not be charged, it was announced here.

## Colombia truce

Bogota (Reuters) Colombia's most active urban guerrilla group, the M19, said at the weekend it had reached a peace accord with the Government. Spokesman said the truce also involved another guerrilla group, the Popular Liberation Army.

## Parachute death

Oslo (Reuters) - An American parachutist, Mr Carl Benisch, aged 41, was killed while trying to set a new world free-fall record. After jumping off the 5,900ft Trollveggen mountain, his parachute opened but he was thrown against the almost vertical mountainside.

## Shultz tour

Mr George Shultz, the US Secretary of State, who left Hongkong on a tour to discuss the Cambodia issue, US-Chinese relations, and economic questions with the leaders of non-communist Asian countries, Australia and New Zealand. Originally due to start his tour today, he flew to Malaysia a day early.



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## Veil lifted

Rome (AP) - A judge has blocked Iran Air from requiring the seven Italian women working in its Rome office to wear the traditional Islamic veil known as the chador. The women had been told they could be sacked if they did not wear the chador and a full-length tunic from July 15.

## Friends again

Cairo (Reuters) - Egypt and the Soviet Union have agreed to exchange ambassadors for the first time since 1961, ending a chilly period in their relations, according to announcements here and in Moscow. The move reflects President Mubarak's wish for good relations with both superpowers.

## Guerrilla cadets

Lima (AFP) - Five children, aged between seven and 11, believed kidnapped by the left-wing Sendero Luminoso guerrillas, are reported to have dynamited a lorry on the Urubamba road last week. The driver, told by the children to get out first, said a group of masked men observed the children from a distance.

## Holiday camp

Lulea, Sweden (AFP) - The biggest air base in northern Sweden, located here on the Gulf of Bothnia, closed for three weeks on Friday to allow personnel to go on holiday. General Bengt Gustafsson, said he was astounded by the move and it would never happen again.



## Renault executive saloon handles like sports car

By Clifford Webb, Motoring Correspondent

It looks as if Renault has at last got the top-of-the-range model that has eluded it for so long. A new Renault executive saloon with the lowest drag coefficient of any production car (0.28) goes on sale in Britain today.

The Renault 25 combined an exceptionally smooth ride with the handling of a sports car, yet is a spacious five-seat car with full equipment, even in standard form.

Seven versions are being imported, offering a choice of a 2 litre, and 2.2 litre, four-cylinder engines, a 2.7 litre fuel-injected V6, five-speed manual or three-speed automatic transmissions.

The top versions make considerable use of electronics including a voice synthesizer to give warning if anything goes wrong, an on-board computer and six-speaker stereo-cassette system.

Mr Patrick Faure, managing director of Renault UK said: "This is the most important model we have ever launched at the top of the market. Our dealers have never been more enthusiastic over a new car. We have received several hundred orders even before the first cars arrive. I expect to sell 10,000 in the first year."

Since it went on sale in France four months ago the Renault 25 has taken almost 4 per cent of the total car market. Prices range from £7,950 for the Renault 25 TS to £13,440 for the 25 V6 automatic.

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## Mitterrand's Jordan visit Arms may be high on agenda

From Diana Geddes Paris

President Mitterrand leaves Paris today for a two-day visit to Jordan, his first official trip to the Middle East since he went to Israel in March 1982. Then he shocked his hosts by insisting in his address to the Knesset on the right of the Palestinian people to a country of their own.

President Mitterrand prides himself on the directness and consistency of his statements abroad. His language is the same in Washington, Moscow, Saudi Arabia, Tel Aviv or Amman, he insists.

He is not expected to spring any new surprises during this visit. His main purpose is to reaffirm France's special ties with the Arab world and demonstrates France's close interest in the Middle East, despite a relative lull since the French contingent of the multinational peace-keeping force withdrew from Beirut in March.

The visit has special significance coming so close to the Israeli elections on July 23, when Mr Shimon Peres, the Labour leader, with whom M Mitterrand has a longstanding and close relationship, is expected to be returned to power.

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## India seizes 250 after Sikh hijack

From Mario Mediano Athens

Srinagar (Reuters) - Security at Indian airports has been tightened and more than 250 people have been arrested in Jammu and Kashmir after the hijacking of an Indian airliner to Pakistan.

Police in the state capital, Srinagar, said those arrested, including suspected Sikh extremists, had been rounded up during Friday and Saturday.

They said the Himalayan region bordering Pakistan was quiet yesterday after a curfew was reimposed and paramilitary troops redeployed to disperse demonstrations against the sacking of the chief minister, Dr Farooq Abdullah.

But there was fresh violence in neighbouring Punjab and two north-eastern states, where three people were killed and a local politician seriously injured at the weekend. A woman was also killed at a village near the Sikh holy city of Amritsar in Punjab yesterday.

Two people died and several were injured in Tripura on Saturday, and a district leader of the Congress (I) party was ambushed and shot in Assam.

A Government report about the assault on the Sikh Golden Temple is expected to be released today.

## Greek staff block main US base

From Mario Mediano Athens

American military personnel at bases in Greece were being urged by their commanders yesterday to submit "in a courteous and diplomatic manner" to scrutiny by 1,800 striking Greek employees, blocking access to the main United States Air Force base at Athens airport.

All but uniformed Americans, who must prove their identity at the gate checkpoints, are being denied access. The strikers, officially employed by the Greek Defence Ministry, demand that the Americans abide by a labour court ruling awarding them index-linked wages, better salary grades, and a 37½-hour working week.

Tension between the countries has been growing in recent months because of a steady stream of anti-American propaganda by the ruling Socialists.

An American *démarche* to the Greek Government on June 26, announcing that consent for the sale of secondhand military aircraft to Greece was being withheld, was brushed up by Athens but was leaked by Mr Evangelos Averoff, leader of New Democracy, the conservative opposition party.

## Differences played down as Caribbean summit closes

From Jeremy Taylor Port of Spain

Leaders of the 15-member Caribbean Community and Common Market (Caricom), ended their annual summit in the Bahamas ahead of schedule, bravely papering over the cracks which had threatened to wreck the 11-year-old organization.

The meeting began with an icy rebuke from Mr George Chambers, Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago, who said the only real item on the agenda was whether the regional integration movement would continue, and, if so, on what terms.

He said he was appalled at the malice and abuse directed against Trinidad, whose people were reassessing the cost and benefits of Caricom.

Playing down as far as possible the unhealed wounds inflicted by the US intervention in Grenada in October, the Caricom leaders took the first step toward admitting non-English speaking members, confirming the Dominican Republic, Haiti and Surinam as observers.

A committee is to study the Community rule which requires unanimous decision on big

issues. Mr Edward Seaga, the Jamaican Prime Minister, is anxious to establish majority voting to prevent any single member blocking decisions.

The final communiqué expressed anxiety over the security of small states in the wake of the Grenada crisis and reaffirmed Caricom's commitment to non-intervention, ideological pluralism and rejection of force, though it was not clear how this squared with Caribbean support for the intervention in Grenada.

The summit also supported the Contadora peace initiative

in Central America, arguing that the cause of conflict there was not East-West tension but deep-seated social and economic ills.

Leaders exuded confidence about a revival of Caricom trade as they left Nassau over the weekend, but the main achievement was Trinidad and Tobago's Mr Chambers managed to secure assurances from member states that they would buy more from his country. He offered to consider dismantling import restrictions in return.

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**From Peter Nichols, Rome**



MINO









# HOW THE MINERS ON STRIKE HAVE BEEN MISLED...

## ABOUT WHAT THE STRIKE CAN ACHIEVE.

The miners on strike are angry. And it's easy to understand why.

They are angry because of what they have been told by their leaders.

But have they been told the truth?

The sad thing is that the only result the strike can achieve is irreparable damage to the industry.

**Can the strike stop pit closures?**

No – for a very simple reason.

The future of coal depends upon how much it costs to mine. The cheaper it is, the more of it we can sell, and therefore the more of it we can mine.

The more expensive it is, the more it will pile up unsold, like the 55 million tonnes at the beginning of this year.

No matter how long the strike continues, it cannot change this basic fact.

We need to replace four million tonnes of our most expensive coal with economically-mined output.

This will bring the average cost down – and allow us to sell more coal from our better pits.

Doing this is exactly what was agreed in the 1974 Plan for Coal – to replace old, uneconomic capacity with new economic capacity.

The final Tri-partite Report on the Plan for Coal said in Paragraph 27, “inevitably some pits will have to close as their useful economic reserves of coal are depleted”.

A mere 12 per cent of our capacity is now directly costing more than £275 million a year to support. This is money that should be going into modernising our other pits – as the Plan for Coal hoped it would.

That will safeguard miners' jobs, increase wages, and give Britain the coal industry it needs.

The strike cannot do that. The only thing it can achieve is the very opposite.

If it goes on long enough, the strike threatens up to 30 good pits with permanent closure.

This could not only cost miners, but also steel and railway workers jobs that should not be lost.

**Can the strike win new business?**

Everyone knows it can't. It is driving away future coal customers.

It is making coal more difficult to sell.

It is threatening the future of the industry.

Britain is the only country in Western Europe that is investing so heavily in the future of coal.

The British coal industry has excellent prospects.

But not if the strike continues.

**This strike – not the Coal Board – could butcher the industry.**

That's why it is so important that this strike ends soon.

It was called by the miners' leaders. It now needs to be called off by the miners themselves.

# NCB

**One in a series issued  
by the National Coal Board.**



## SPECTRUM

In the first of a two-part series  
**Alan Franks looks at how the fall**  
 in the cost of home computers  
 is rapidly spawning a generation  
 of young, and even pre-school,  
 children fully conversant  
 with the new technology

# The little keys to our future

There is something faintly disturbing, although highly comic, about a tiny child seated at the keyboard of a computer, bolstered up on a pile of telephone directories, and moving his fingers across the hardware with the absorption of a boffin on the verge of a breakthrough. And yet the sight is becoming more commonplace in British homes as the starting age of the computer user gets lower and lower.

For the layman, the assimilation of computer linguistics, the specifications, the properties, the programs, can be rather like catching machine-gun bullets between the teeth; none the less, it is as well to record a few essential statistics which help to explain why so many young children are getting so much value from their screens.

It is only five years ago that personal computers began to slip down into the bracket of affordable prices.

One of the first was the Commodore PET at £500 plus, followed by the Apple. The breakthrough came with the Sinclair ZX80, selling at £100 (although its 1K of memory looks minute by today's standard) followed by the Acorn BBC. Sinclair ZX81 and Spectrum.

It is now estimated that 11.8 per cent of UK households have a home computer, and that of that number, nearly half use the machine at least partially for educational purposes. What is perhaps even more telling is the fact that a junior teaching program, called *Wordspell*, aimed at three-year-olds and above, has burst into the best-selling software list compiled by the magazine *Popular Computing Weekly*. It is the first teaching program to have done so, the list usually featuring nothing but teenage games of interplanetary violence and the like. It is as if the theme music from *Postman Pat* had ousted Boy George from the charts.

There are now at least 250 manufacturers of educational software ranging from the large publishing houses such as Longmans, Heinemann, Macmillan, Penguin and Collins, right down to the one-man cottage industries consisting of a computer and a garage. Of these 250, at least 80 are engaged in the junior end of the

market. Only in the secondary school sector does the boom appear to have levelled off for the moment, having reached a peak between June 1983 and February this year.

It is accepted that among the genuinely effective programs to have come on to the market there has also been a fair bit of rubbish. But as competition heats up, so the standards are more exacting and the dross is disappearing.

But what can a child of three or under possibly hope to get from a computer program? More importantly, isn't there a danger that the usurping by technology of the traditional role of book and teacher/parent might have harmful and unforeseen effects on the teaching process? The answer to the first question is that most programs for the very young, build on the conventional techniques of numeracy and literacy exercises.

## Danger of usurping the role of the book

For example, a crane is loading bricks on to two trucks of a train. Before the train can pull away from the loading bay, the child must enter on the keyboard the number of bricks on each truck, and then the combined total. When he does so correctly, then, hey presto, off goes the train (an old-fashioned puff, please note), complete with little clouds of smoke and appropriate chuffing noises. Or again, an animal appears on the screen, and if the child can identify its initial letter on the keyboard, then the creature obliges with a moo or a miaow.

Then there are the "odd-one-out" programs. A car goes along a street bordered by four houses. One roof is yellow and three are red. If the child keys the car along to stop outside the yellow one, out steps the beaming occupant, into the car and away.

When it comes to spatial skills, there is now a wide variety of maze programs on the market, in which, say, a rabbit has to make his way through a labyrinth of lines in search of a carrot. In its more sophisticated form it enables



Fingers on the button: Home computers are the modern activity centres for the rising generation who are learning the educational and technological necessities of the future

him to key a full set of instructions to the rabbit before it sets off ("two squares to the right, four down, one to the left" etc.), and then by pressing the "go" key, find out whether he has plotted the route accurately. This is a particularly good example of the contribution that the computer can make to a conventional form, for the program is fitted with a random factor which means that each maze is different from the last.

The answer to the question of whether computer-based primary education may be potentially harmful is harder to come by. In such debate there are inevitably shades of the old pocket calculator controversy: is it not wrong for a child to learn on technological aids - or is it not right that he should familiarize himself as soon as possible with the gadgetry that is going? The essential difference between the two classes of machinery is of course that the calculator could indeed be seen to short-circuit a cerebral function, whereas programs of the kind mentioned above are anything more challenging than their conventional predecessors. What both examples have in common is the need to be harnessed to proper adult supervision to serve the teaching process rather than be served by it.

During these first five years it has not always been a happy marriage; the Micro Electronics Educational Programme (MEP), set up by the Government four years ago to monitor software development, has come in for some harsh criticism from, among others, the Mathematics Association, for the number of "educationally unsound" pro-

grams that have found their way into schools. At least at primary level the problem is less serious, no doubt because many of the programs have been developed directly from the teachers' own ideas, and from their first-hand perceptions of what is needed.

The lesson is that the most successful programs are those which are concocted with the aid of the toddlers whom they are designed to serve. Griffin and George is one of the companies which have cottoned on to the idea that young children are automatically more drawn to the screen than to the printed page. "At one of our launches at the London Press Centre," says micro-electronics manager Bob Lovett, "the kids just couldn't get enough. There were about a dozen of them there. Most of the grown-ups were having a look at the programs and then dashing back to the cars. But with the youngsters it was the other way around. They just grabbed the food and raced to the keys."

## Successful programs have toddlers' help

Mr Lovett explains that one of the essential elements in the development of primary teaching aids is durability; by which he does not mean that the stuff should be unbreakable, (although that helps) but that it cannot be scrambled or sabotaged by small fingers. The trade jargon for this is bomb-proofing. "You know how it is with kids," he says. "If you ask them to push the Y key, they're bound to make straight for the Z or the A. It's not necessarily that they're mischievous, more that they're inquisitive. If you accept the Freudian theories, a child of three or four is high years away from the stage of abstract thought. They do something simply to see what happens."

*Wordspell* has an inbuilt "dictionary" of 800 words and a little army of space invaders who burst onto the screen and help the child re-arrange the letters if his first stab at spelling a word is first of the mark. Teachers working with the program are certain that it has lowered the age at which most of their pupils can attain basic literacy. One reason for its

success is that it was developed from an idea by teachers in County, in classroom conditions, and modified according to the children's requirements. During this process, simple but vital discrepancies would emerge between adult and child perceptions. "For example," says Mr Lovett, "we accept that a tick means yes and a cross means no. But to a child, a cross signifies a kiss and is therefore not a negative message."

Griffin and George is one of the older houses to have become involved in computer teaching, although it claims a history of innovation, Mr Griffin having invented the glass beaker 150 years ago. More typical of the new crop is the two-year-old company ASK (Applied Systems Knowledge); among its programs is one called *Face Maker*, a sort of personalized Identikit which allows children to draw their friends (or enemies presumably) on the screen by keying in a description, feature by feature. It has gone down well with teachers because of its capacity to generate discussion in the class. "Robin's ears aren't as big as that!" "Yes they are, but his hair's not red, it's yellow," and so on.

"At the moment," says Peter Lever, managing director of ASK, "I think it's true to say there are parents who think, right, let's buy one of these for the home so that the children can get ahead. The proper emphasis is on getting them to become problem-solving, of giving them a sense of thinking for themselves. If software has a weakness at the moment, it is that there is too much of the 'drill and practise' element."

Today's three-year-olds are the first generation of pupils who will come to CSE stage with the likelihood of having used a computer since the start of their school days or before. The stark reality is that since the computers can only become more ubiquitous, the sooner they make its acquaintance, the better. In 10 years' time they will almost certainly be studying Shakespeare with the aid of software if Penguin's new range of six programs is successful; but that is another story.

Tomorrow:  
the future shock

## The stars of the small screen whose careers started at 18 months

The top bedroom at the Detheridges' house in North London sleeps up to half a dozen computer keyboards and screens, several cassette players, micro-drives, and a whole family of assorted software.

Before these related items underwent a population explosion, the gear used to squat in the kitchen - but that was in the days when all the Detheridges had was a humble old Apple. The descendants belong to the sophisticated generation of Commodores and Spectrums.

This bedroom is now the nerve centre of Widge Software Limited, serving as administration HQ, research laboratory (adults and children) and, most importantly, early learning area. Widge is one of the pioneers of the home-based industry of children's program development, and its success story, though more spectacular than most, is typical of the teacher-led revolution in primary computer aids.

The company is run by Mike and Tina Detheridge, although in reality they are merely the senior partners to whom the children have been essential consultants since the age of 18 months. At five and four respectively, Simon and Katie are now veterans of the keyboard and use the equipment with consummate assurance.

Widge has invented and marketed half a dozen programs for an age range of two to nine. Each of the tapes has sold about 5,000 copies (at about £5) and, now that the *Daily Mirror's* software publishing house, Mirrorsoft, has bought two new ones, Mike has taken the plunge and turned professional for an experimental year.

Their skills appear highly complementary, he having been head of physics at the William Ellis School in Highgate, and she a pottery teacher and practising potter; they come to the job with a blend of technical and design

expertise. Yet they also come to it almost by accident. "I bought a computer because I was getting more and more into the admin side at school," says Mike. "I had some royalties from a textbook, but Tina thought that at £700 it was a waste of money, didn't you?"

"Yes I did, you're right. I had no idea what possible use it could be. Shortly after we got it our second child was born, and it was really all those endless hours sitting up with Katie that did it. I can remember spending that time reading the Apple manual - sometimes just staring at page one for hour after hour."

"If you keep something like a computer in your kitchen, and you have very small children you can do one of two things: either you can say hands off, or you can show them how to use it. We started by trying to write a very simple program in which, if you touched the machine carefully, a picture came up, but if you just bashed it, the machine would switch off. By the age of 18 months, perhaps, even a little younger, Simon had twigged that if he pressed one key a certain picture came

up, and if he pressed another key, a different one appeared..."

Since then Widge has literally grown with the children, step by step. When the elder child learnt letters, the parents wrote a letters program, and so, later, with numbers. It was at that point that other parents in the neighbourhood expressed an interest and indicated the embryo of commercial demand. There is now a little local network of consumer guinea pigs, both senior and junior.

It has taken the couple more endless hours with the manual, yet more of trial and error and child testing, to learn the craft of creating programs - a craft which is to a cross between pointillism and animation.

"Our evidence - and I accept that it's only anecdotal - suggests that these devices don't stop children gravitating to the written word," says Mike. "I suppose it has happened to the teenagers' generation, but it won't be the same for the next one down. Besides, it's very much in the parents' hands how effectively these things are used."



Family technology: the Detheridges at home

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## Give me a wine with tasty feet and a steady gait

moreover...  
**Miles Kingston**

I often get letters from readers who feel inadequate and tongue-tied when in the presence of wine buffs because they can't talk Winespeak. How can they learn the language? Is there a course of tapes or something?

A reader from Yeovil, who signs himself merely "Non-Vintage", puts it in a nutshell: "The Times wine critic the other day called wines things like 'daisy', 'cabbage', 'biscuity'. But wines don't really taste of cabbage or biscuits, do they? They might taste of chalk. I suppose, but has any wine critic ever tasted chalk to find out? I doubt it. Can you help me?"

I think I can. Non-Vintage. What you've got to remember is that it's very difficult to talk about wine in terms of itself - once you've gone through the basic terms of sweet, dry, rich and thin etc, you have to become scientific, and start talking about traces of ferrous oxide or become technical and esoteric. So what wine people do is talk about wines in terms of other things.

The wine critic you quote, for instance, has chosen to talk in terms of food. Others tend to talk about wines as if they were

people: a querulous red, perhaps, or a noble Beaujolais or an eager young Riesling.

Once heard a wine critic say: "What this Rioja needs is a damn good spanking and sending to bed without any supper."

So what you must do is choose some non-related field and use metaphors from it. Here are some possible fields, together with a few phrases you might like to try out.

**Sport**  
 "This wine has stamina."  
 "It's a front-runner, but has it got staying power?"  
 "A smash-and-volley little red, with nice footwork."

"This wine isn't within sight of the green yet, I'm afraid."  
 "I always think that Alsatian wines have good direction but no length."

"I can't see this Medoc scoring in a month of Sundays. I'm afraid it's going to go to penalties."

**Music.**  
 "A melodic little rose".  
 "Too Hindemithian for me, I think."

"It tastes fine to start with, but then it modulates into some dreadful minor key."

"A good disco plonk, but not for listening to."

"The Mozartian overtones are deceptive. It's actually basic Rossini."

"This wine's got something odd in the attic, I think."

"It's all roof and no bedrooms."

"A lovely white Burgundy, with a nice lived-in feeling."

"At the price, it's a very decent little council estate red."

"Do you ever get the feeling that Australian wines have no upstairs?"

"It's all entrance and no reception room."

"Quite honestly, I expect my Sauvernes to be better furnished than this."

"This is a Beaujolais I wouldn't mind moving into tomorrow."

Well, you should get the idea by now. It doesn't have to be any of these areas, of course. Personally, I always talk about wines in terms of footwear.

"This wine couldn't kick its way out of a paper bag."

"I like a claret that walks nicely."

"A tightly-laced little Muscadet."

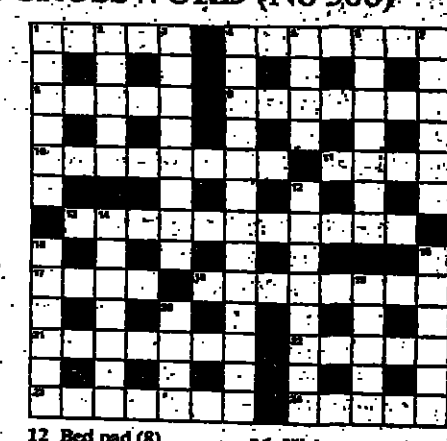
"All sole and on uppers."

"This Spanish white is a lady's excuse-me, if ever I saw one."

And so on. All this talk has made me thirsty. I think I'll have a glass of Malvasia Seco. It'll never win a race, but it's a wonderful little jogger.

## CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 388)

- ACROSS  
 1 Fagus tree (5)  
 4 Portinent (7)  
 8 Sedate (5)  
 9 Firearm bore (7)  
 10 First bar beat (8)  
 11 Droop (4)  
 13 Mental disorder (11)  
 17 Spoken (4)  
 18 Permanent rules (8)  
 21 Red splint (7)  
 22 Rub out (5)  
 23 Contrary statement (7)  
 24 Burst of activity (5)  
 DOWN  
 1 Next to (6)  
 2 Midarm joint (5)  
 3 Rottbound book (8)  
 4 Earliest bird (13)  
 5 Actor's part (4)  
 6 Announce formally (7)  
 7 Detective (6)  
 12 Bed pad (8)  
 14 Paper clipper (7)  
 15 Floppy head cover (5,3,3)  
 16 High regard (6)  
 19 Diamond-headed (5)  
 20 Hurried (4)



Recommended dictionary is the New Collins Concise

هنا من الفضل



MONDAY PAGE

# Woman who broke with tradition

**This Japanese City broker is accepted in London but treated like an honorary man at home**

When Haruko Fukuda goes home to Japan she is treated as an honorary man - taken out on the town with the rest of the boys and entertained in geisha houses.

Ms. Fukuda is a partner in one of London's largest stockbroking firms. As head of the firm's Japanese department, she is responsible for investing in Japanese industry. Clearly she is a vital business contact but she is also a bit of an embarrassment. "I am looked upon as a funny foreigner who is also Japanese and a woman," she says.

Women do not exist in the Japanese business world. Except, perhaps, as secretaries or junior analysts or in pour tea promptly at meetings. Seventy-one per cent of Japanese firms who take on university graduates will not consider women graduates. 24 per cent of the ones that do refuse to give them any training. Women in full-time work are paid 40 per cent less than their male colleagues. Part-timers, mostly married women, who are the mainstay of the Japanese economy, enjoying no sick pay, pension or rights, get only 75 per cent of that.

As Mr. Bunpei Otsuki, president of Nikkeiren - Japan Federation of Employers' Associations - remarked recently: "Women belong in the home and should look after the children."

You can see why Haruko Fukuda presents a dilemma and why her hosts have solved it by pretending that she is a man. In fact, she is charming, elegant, 38 years old and confident enough to turn her peculiar situation into an advantage. "People do remember me," she says.

*'Simply not done for a girl to do anything but marry well'*

She now takes it for granted that she never meets the wives of her business contacts - "If the wife is there it is a discourtesy to her to talk business" - and rather enjoys the fuss the geishas make of her. "Ooh, what a beautiful lady." "Ooh, what a lovely silk blouse."

Haruko's father was a diplomat and she left Japan when she was 14 to grow up in America and England. My parents and grandparents said, "For goodness' sake don't become a blue stocking. It was simply not done for a girl to do anything but marry well and settle down."

But Haruko went to Cambridge, became an economist, married an English architect, from whom she is now separated, wrote a number of books on world trade policies, worked for the World Bank and became a stockbroker. It would, she says, have been impossible for her to have this career - or any sort of commercial career - in Japan.

It is a male society and ambitious parents strive to get their sons into the right kindergarten which will process them into - the right school - and university to gain them a place in a top corporation.

Needless to say, these programmed people conform like clones - dark



Woman of substance: Haruko Fukuda. "It would have been impossible to have this career in Japan"

haired, white shirts, short back-and-sides.

It is professional suicide to be divorced, work for a foreign company or even change your job, and a sign of failure to get home at 7pm.

The successful businessman is expected to spend more than he earns on expense account entertaining in the bars, restaurants and geisha houses. The currently fashionable spot is the karaoke bar where businessmen get together with their clients and one another for a sing-song. The president of Santory is said to be in particularly good voice at the moment.

Even highly sophisticated businessmen such as Yutaka Tada, president of Issey Miyake International, spend their evenings entertaining and their weekends playing golf. As Mr. Tada complains from an hour outside Tokyo, he rarely glimpses his wife and children and dog. He said: "The other night I got home at 9pm and my wife said: 'What's happened? Are you all right? Are you ill?'"

What do women do all day? They shop and meet one another for coffee and lunch and watch television - 10 programmes of "soaps" and panel games and hints on food presentation. How food looks is almost more important than how it tastes. And, when the children are launched on to the conveyor belt, there are stories of discontent and unhappiness, leading to suicides and "shot" clubs, the female answer to the businessmen's bars, where nice young students from Tokyo University are said to be happy to earn extra money, entertaining lonely housewives. There is a saying that Japanese husbands need to know only three words - *meshi* (food), *furo* (bath) and *neru* (bed).

In this unsympathetic climate, has



Blazing the trail: Mrs. Ishihara

any woman managed to make it to the top of the corporation ladder? It is not so difficult to succeed in

*'Only a strong, confident man copes with a working wife'*

"creative" fields but, for years now, Mrs. Ichiko Ishihara, a delightful, down-to-earth 60-year-old, has been Japan's token business woman.

She is managing director of the public relations department and a main board director of Takashimaya,

a chain of 19 department stores and is the first to recognize that she would not have got a foot on to the bottom rung if she had not been working for an organization selling mainly to women.

She decided, as a girl, that she wanted to work. "To be an executive, that was my purpose," she says. After getting a literature degree at a women's college, she enrolled in a men's college and graduated in economics too.

"I decided that things were changing, economics would be vital in the future, and for a woman to succeed she must be armed with the same knowledge as a man," she says.

She started at Takashimaya 32 years ago and it took her 25 years to reach executive rank. She says: "One of the things that make it difficult for a woman to succeed here is the lifelong employment system. When you join a company, you are expected to stay there for life, and if a married woman leaves to look after her children for a few years, she is not able to come back."

Mrs. Ishihara took three months off to have each of her two children, and because women are not legally allowed to work for more than eight hours a day, she put in 12 without overtime, designed 50 per cent of the stock, unpaid again, when she became children's wear buyer and always made sure that she knew a little more and worked a little harder than her male colleagues.

She had the benefit of a nanny and babysitters - half my wages went on that - a mother living next door and an understanding husband. He recalls: "I had a career when we met and he understands perfectly. Of course, people said, 'Oh, he can't afford to keep his wife.' But a strong, confident man can cope with that."

Business entertaining was made easier because her husband is one of Japan's leading economics journalists and most of the people she has to meet are their friends. It also helps that she is a keen golfer. Japanese businessmen queue to get into the "right" clubs.

Mrs. Ishihara has just translated an American women's career book into Japanese. It is called *Think Like a Man, Act Like a Lady and Work Like a Dog*. That's what it takes to succeed, she says.

Now she has embarked on a one-woman equality campaign. She lectures to men's clubs - "They must understand how women think" - and to women about getting involved.

*'I am working for equal pay I shall see they have a chance'*

"All my friends thought I was mad. They said I was not looking after my children," she says. "And now they say, 'Oh, you are so lucky to have a job, something interesting to do.'"

She has even persuaded Takashimaya to launch a working woman's magazine.

"This is a man-dominated company," she says, "but I have taken on 200 girls from good universities. I am working for equal pay. I shall see they have a chance."

"Already, attitudes are changing. Women used to work for three years before they married. Now it is six. You'll see. In another generation it will be different for women in Japan."

Shirley Lowe

PENNY PERRICK

## Lording it with Uncle Harold



Lady Sophia Murphy went to a fancy dress ball earlier this year. She was dressed as Emma Bovary and someone asked her whether that was one of the characters in *Dallas*.

Guests danced to Frankie Goes to Hollywood records and, during the evening, Sophia sent a plate of meringues skittering off a table through poor negotiation of her panniered skirt.

This was all a far cry from the fancy dress ball given by Lady Sophia's great-great-grandmother, the Duchess of Devonshire, who was known as the Double Duchess because she had been married to the Duke of Manchester before fetching up with the 8th Duke of Devonshire.

Her fancy dress ball held at Devonshire House in July, 1897, and about which Lady Sophia has just written a book, employed The Blue Hungarian Band and there were quadrilles and a formal programme of 15 dances.

Two things emerge clearly from Lady Sophia's book: the late Victorian aristocracy spent enormous sums of money and had equally enormous amounts of leisure.

At the Duchess's ball Lady de Grey's \$6,000 Cleopatra costume was eclipsed by another guest's more opulent Egyptian turn-out. Compared with this, the gold silk dress costing £1,060, which Harper's photographed on Lady Sophia this month, seems quite an ordinary little frock.

Also, compared with the life of Sophia's father, the 11th Duke of Devonshire, the 8th Duke lived the life of Riley. Although he held high government office, his life was a jolly round of grouse shooting, salmon and afternoon snoozes at his club.

The present Duke has held high government office too but there all similarity with his great-grandfather ends, for he toils unsparsingly to preserve Chatsworth House, a job that can be likened to the painting of the Forth Bridge. When one bit is secured, another bit is found to need attention. As one looks at the silk walls which all need restoring, it is likely that the Duke and Duchess won't see much change out of the £20m raised by the sale of the Old Master drawings last week.

As a nation, we are lucky that the Duke is so diligent. If he weren't, Chatsworth might go the way of Devonshire House, sold by the 9th Duke in 1919 and demolished in 1924, its site now filled by Green Park tube station and offices.

Dinner at Chatsworth last week had touches of informality that might have made the Duke and Duchess frown. The sugar was served in a Pyrex bowl and the place cards were scrawled on flimsy bits of paper. The card next to mine said, "Uncle Harold", who was none other than the newly created Earl of Stockton, Harold Macmillan.

During dinner he said the

present Government seemed rather Cromwellian, having a tendency to abolish things, such as the GLC, because they weren't perfect.

"If you go on like that, you'd soon have nothing left at all," he said and served himself to the salmon trout. The dinner was delicious but the chef who cooked it comes in only on special occasions. The rest of the time he runs the farm shop.

After dinner, the Duchess, a still beautiful Midford Girl, wearing a bright red dress and lots of pearls, let us roam around the house.

"I've lived here 30 years and I keep finding things I haven't seen before," she said. One can believe her for every inch of wall space has a picture on it and every table is crammed with books and ornaments.

In the foreword to her daughter's book the Duchess writes rather caustically: "The women who were invited had little to do but arrange themselves for such an occasion". She herself would be unlikely to find the time for fancy dress fittings as she supervises several Chatsworth enterprises including the furniture and upholstery workshops.

The lives of this husband and wife team of entrepreneurs is hard but not nearly as stultifying as the lives of their relations who spent all their energy on devising costumes which would be worn for just a few hours.

### Card index that cursed our credit

The curse of the credit card has hit my blameless household. My husband's Barclaycard beckons his company's authorization department so much that wrong numbers get fed into the computer creating mayhem in shops and banks. Last week, it was my turn.

A Harvey Nichols sales assistant made a slight slip-up in reading over my address to authorization which put the whole Barclaycard system on red alert. Bored with my credit card's capriciousness, I dumped my purchases and stomped off towards the escalator hell-beat on slipping up the nasty little plastic troublemaker with rusty nail scissors.

Ever since, Barclaycard executives have been on the phone begging me to give them another chance. They point out that my family's frustrating experiences are pretty well unique. This only makes me feel more victimized. From now on my transactions will be carried out with wads of dirty banknotes.

The Duchess of Devonshire's Ball. (Sidgwick & Jackson £13.95)

### Tomorrow:

**Dressed to kill - Fashion on how women stole a march on men**

Stephanie Calman on a pilgrimage to do Shakespeare with American culture vultures

## All aboard the bus for Bardsville

Very early one morning I got on a Franks-Richards coach taking 40 Americans to Stratford-upon-Avon, charming Midlands town and birthplace of William Shakespeare.

To us he was simply a dramatic genius, to many foreigners a mysterious, legendary figure from the English past. Through international appreciation of his work he has taken on a significance normally associated with politics or religion. So, as the only British person on the trip, I felt proud to think of all these visitors coming here to see his plays.

At the morning coffee stop, I asked a mother and daughter from New Hampshire if they

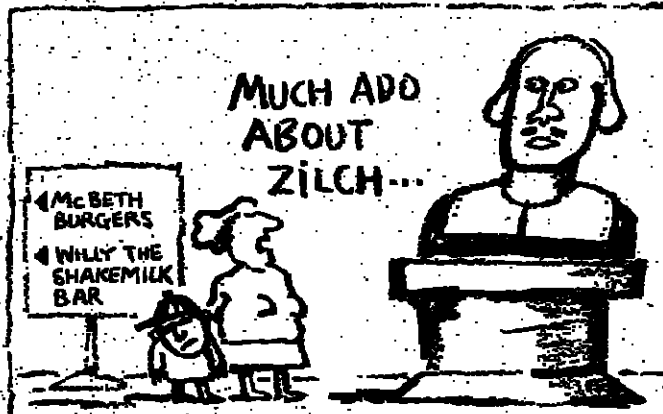
would be going to the theatre during their stay.

"We'd like to see a play," said the mother. "But I don't think we'll have time."

I met another woman from New England, who for a living made Cabbage Patch dolls. "I heard her telling a child: 'I've bought some dolls for the girls next door: Henry VIII, Jane Seymour, Lady Elizabeth I. My uncle used to collect them for me when he was in the military. I've got Japan, Vietnam, Korea.'"

She also had her husband and her own child with her. I asked if she was interested in Shakespeare.

"Oh yes," she said. "We live



right near the Shakespeare theatre in Stratford, Connecticut. And I majored in history at college."

"English?" I said. "No, Japanese?"

"Will you be seeing a play while you're here?"

"No. Our kid wouldn't sit through it."

Stratford was Bardsville, Warwickshire, all right. In walking from the coach park, to the Birthplace, to the Theatre, I passed the Pen & Parchment inn, the Hathaway Tea Rooms, the Shakespeare Hostelry, the Falstaff restaurant and the As You Like It nightclub, mostly described in my leaflet as "almost opposite the Royal Shakespeare Theatre".

There was not, however, the Romeo & Juliet teenage advice centre, nor, for those hipper residents, the Mellow-Orbello breakfasting club.

The tour was very smoothly organized. We tourists were not treated like sheep, and our guide had a genuinely patient and jovial nature. He combined, I felt, the rhetorical pacing of the *Hamlet* grave-diggers, with the gruff familiarity of the porter in *Macbeth*.

"See that?" said one Brooklyn man to another. "A typical Englishman, caught up in his work."

At the house of the Hathaway family he left us with a rosy-faced woman who told me that 2,000 to 3,000 people come through the cottage every day of the year except Christmas.

When she said, "It dates from 1470," you could hear the gasps, as if she had uttered the name of some one great.

"And this table is 300 years old, huh?" said a boy testing the surface with his nails.

I thought of telling them that my mother's house was built in 1620 but it has no famous personality connected with it - unless you count Tennessee Williams, to whom my mother was once rude.

The Birthplace had, like the Hathaway house, a sign in every doorway and window saying, "To the Gift Shop". In fact, there is no way out but by the Gift Shop. I thought there might be a secret passage, so handy for those quick getaways from gift shops, but there was none.

The little museum, quietest room in the house, provided temporary escape. In a glass case were the truly thrilling relics of his life, early editions of the plays.

The coach left in the afternoon, but I sought - as the leaflet put it - "a more leisurely interpretation of that real England (I had) come to find".

Falling by some error into a restaurant not called the Bed & Bard, or Hostess Quickley's Fast-Food, I met two round ladies from America.

"Have you visited the Cottage and the Birthplace?" I asked them.

"Oh, yes!" they said. "And do you go to see much Shakespeare?"

"No," said the rounder one. "It's big in the States, but I'm not big on it. You have to be really big on it to get into it."

She was short on the ground, yet big on it.

At the pub called The Dirty Duck, which really is almost opposite the Theatre, I compared foot soreness with a teacher from California. In two weeks she had seen the homes of Wordsworth, the Brontës and Bobby Burns, as well as those in Stratford.

"I'm making a slide presentation on the trip to my class," she told me. "I must say, in England you really revere history."

**Little marvel mixer**

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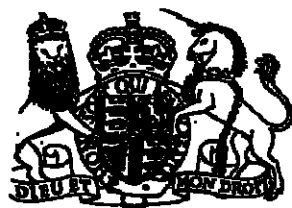
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## PARIS DIARY

Frank Johnson

### Eyes right for the right art

The sort of person who decides to live in Paris for a while tends to be of the sort of person who will be found, from time to time, lurking gloomily in the galleries which specialize in new pictures. We will be checking up on the State Of French Art.

While carrying out one of these routine inspections, the expatriate will probably be struck by the thought that The State Of French Art is not worth bothering about. This will come as a relief: no further inspections will be necessary, nor will there be any discourtesy to the host nation, except to its artists. As I recoiled from some expensive red and blue squares on a gallery wall the other day, the woman in charge offered the reassurance, "It's all right, monsieur, it's for Los Angeles." The southern Californians, it seems, are the main buyers of French pictures of the 1980s provided they look like New York pictures of the 1960s.

Meanwhile, the French compete for the remaining minor works by Impressionists and Post-Impressionists which come on the market. One artist called Lacoste, for example, who lived on into the 1950s, is rightly admired. So a shift to the right is going on in taste as in most other things in France. One contemporary much admired by this public is the figurative painter Maurice Maza, who is accordingly detested by the others. This is reciprocated.

"What our avant-gardists seem to ignore," he has just said, "is that academicism, which they so much anathematize, is infinitely variable. A Fernand Léger, a Magritte, however different their approach, are two major traditionalists."

But now there is this "quasi-general, respectful grovelling of the critics before these mediocrities and the mirage-like prices that their rubbish makes in the saleroom. As for Mondrian, Kandinsky, Miró, Dubuffet, Poliakoff, Pollock, and their kind, I challenge - as an impossibility - any attempt to analyse that mass of impotence, of horrors and infamies."

"He is always considered a Gaullist," explained the magazine which was interviewing him. One wondered what that had to do with it, but then, in France all art tends to have a political significance, though not vice versa. It emerges that Maza's being a Gaullist is significant because, according to Maza, it was de Gaulle's Minister for the Arts, Malraux, who helped ruin French art.

Maza continued: "I was - and remain - faithful to General de Gaulle. However, I have never understood how so great a spirit, of unique range, who had formed for himself a 'certain idea' of France, of her luminous and indestructible continuity, had confided the destiny of French art, its defence and its future, to an André Malraux, a personage and a writer certainly of the first grandeur, but in the domain of the arts - and of painting in particular - a spirit novelty-seeking and without rigour."

To an Anglo-Saxon, there is no difficulty. De Gaulle was obviously not interested in painting.

### Under the bridges of Paris with... who?

There is a worsening shortage of indigenous French pop singers, the result of Anglo-Saxon colonization. An extraordinary number of Bob Dylans storm barking on the Metro, and Britain is making her influence felt. Voyagers of a Seine pleasure boat the other day heard that they were about to be offered a programme of live popular song. Those of us who like our local colour to be very obvious looked forward to a series of Edith Piafs and Maurice Chevaliers, preferably accompanied by a man with an accordion, a beret, a striped jersey, onions around his neck, and the possible on a bicycle. What we got was the University of Bradford chamber choir in a programme by top British song writers Campion, Dowland and Byrd, with fal-lah-lahing and all. Among the tourists, only the Japanese were unperturbed. They had come a long way to hear Edith Piaf and were determined to enjoy it. Inquiries revealed that the university's Fellow of Music had been crossing a bridge on the Seine, had noticed music being advertised on the boats, and offered a British programme. Further evidence of the recovery, under Mrs Thatcher, of British enterprise.

BARRY FANTONI



"One day, my boy, all this will be worth seven million pounds"

# Waiting for the shadow to speak

Christopher Walker reports from Jerusalem on the unknown factor that could still swing the Israeli election Likud's way

The most keenly-awaited event in Israel's election campaign takes place tomorrow when Yitzhak Shamir, leader of the ruling right-wing Likud coalition, and Shimon Peres, his Labour challenger, face each other for their first and only televised debate.

Both were born in Poland and emigrated to Palestine in the mid-1930s, but there the similarity ends. Shamir, 68, is an unabashed hawk who believes passionately in Israel's biblical right to sovereignty over the whole of the occupied West Bank. Peres, eight years his junior, is a supporter of compromise, pledged - if elected - to invite King Hussein of Jordan to open separate peace negotiations. "We would stop building settlements in the densely populated Arab areas," Peres said recently. "The Likud has spent something like 3.5 billion US dollars in the past seven years in the West Bank with very modest results - an increase of 1,000 Jewish settlers. That is a tremendous price, so we are going to cut it. In addition, we are going to suggest to the Jordanians the opening of meaningful negotiations, not necessarily based on the Camp David agreement."

According to the ground rules strictly laid down in advance, the candidates will each answer four identical questions and a fifth in which they will be allowed to outline their political credo. The broadcast is expected to provide voters with their clearest indication yet of the differences of approach between the two sides - which are such that the election has been described as the most significant since Israel's foundation in 1948.

Although about one quarter of all voters are still undecided, Peres,

who led Labour to defeat in 1977 and 1981, will enter the studio as the clear favourite because, with voting two weeks away, his party is still well ahead in the opinion polls. One published recently by the Tel Aviv newspaper *Haaretz* showed Labour with 40.8 per cent support compared with only 21.6 per cent for the government.

The main reason given for the Likud's poor showing has been the disastrous state of the economy, with tens of thousands of Israelis rushing to convert their shekels into either US dollars or the flourishing black market or consumer goods and flats in anticipation of stringent measures ahead. "There is a nasty feeling of a banana republic surrounding the present economic situation," said one Jerusalem businessman who formerly supported the Likud.

But while Peres has reason to be confident, there is little complacency in the Labour camp. It is well aware that under Israel's system of proportional representation, the leader of the largest single party is not necessarily the man able to put together a coalition with a workable majority.

As things stand, neither of the main blocks will be able to govern without the support of some of the smaller parties. Yuri Avnery, a leader of one of the newest, the Arab-Israeli Progressive List for Peace, was asked how he would behave in any talks on joining a coalition. "Just like the others, we will exert," he replied.

Because of the unusual size and

importance of the floating vote, Labour has been striving to keep the campaign bland, believing that this is the best way to woo disillusioned Likud supporters. "We have to keep quiet when we really want to scream," said Yossi Sarid, a leading Labour organizer.

Although the Likud leaders are anxious for the debate to heat up, particularly over the emotive issue of the West Bank - they have also been soft peddling one of their star performers, Ariel Sharon, the former defence minister, whose outspoken approach they believe is more likely to alienate new voters than bring them in.

More than any other single factor, the campaign has been marked by the absence of Menachem Begin, who for the first time since Israel was founded, is not running for elected office. Although he is a virtual recluse in his small flat on Jerusalem's Zemanah Street, his shadow has hung over the campaign in a way which has reminded friends and foe alike that the last of the country's political giants has disappeared, with no replacement in sight.

As yet, Begin has made no public comment about the election; but his followers still chant his name rhythmically at all Likud rallies and Labour is striving not to provoke him into participation. So closely do people still associate him with the Likud that it is not uncommon to hear supporters say they are voting for him. "This is a big question still outstanding is whether the Likud will be able to persuade its former

leader to break his silence and provide it with a much needed fillip in the closing stages of the campaign.

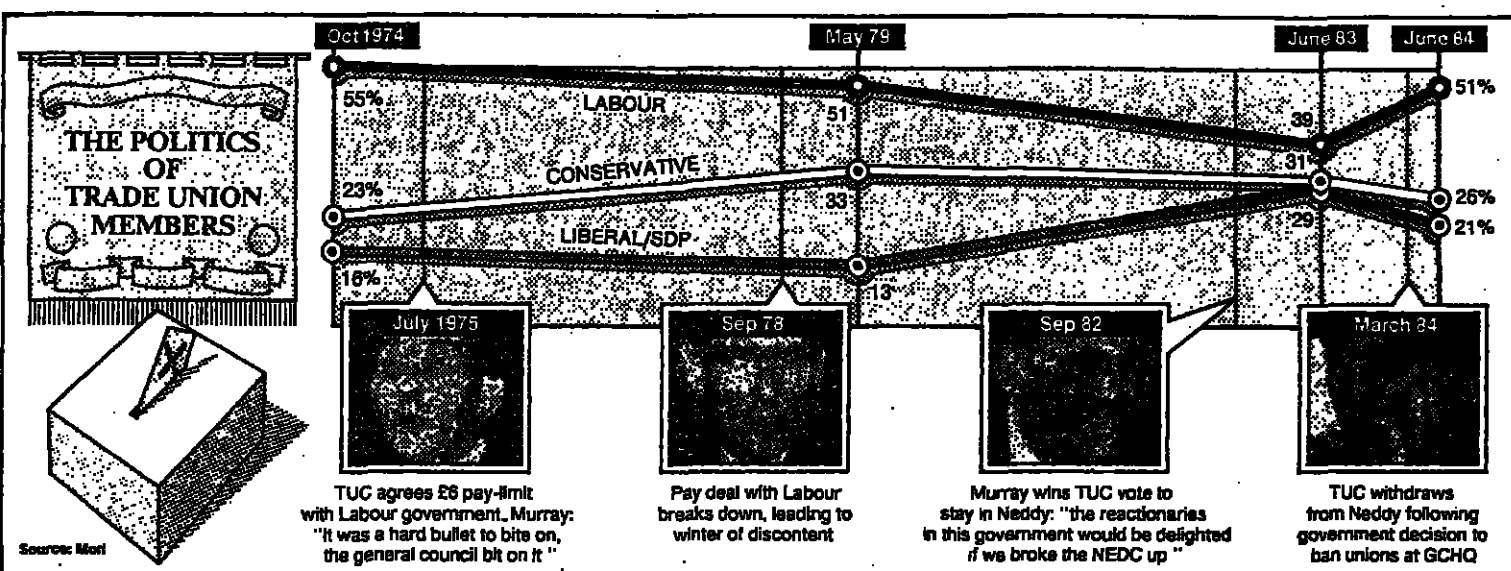
Begin, now 70, spends much of his time in bed reading and sees few people except close family and two former aides. But speculation is growing that he may be persuaded to record a radio message endorsing the government.

In the tense political atmosphere, the mystery over his seclusion is commonly attributed to grief over the death of his devoted wife, Aliza, and the Israeli toll in Lebanon - has spread to his reasons for not yet publicly backing the Likud. Some insiders say he is still angry about the in-fighting when he wanted to step down as prime minister, others that he does not want to see the party succeed without him.

In his prime, Begin was a consummate master of political timing, and some in the Likud believe that even at this eleventh hour the old maestro can somehow pull a last trick from the bag. Others dismiss the hope as forlorn, and look instead to the government for a spectacular last-minute initiative along the lines of the 1981 raid on Iraq's nuclear reactor to reverse the trend in the polls.

A narrowing of the gap, still expected by most pollsters, will increase the chances of Ezer Weizman, the dashing ex-fighter pilot and leader of the new Yehud centre party, of playing the role of eventual king-maker. A former Likud defence minister, now considered by colleagues to favour Labour, he has demurred from expressing a preference for either main party. Asked what government he would join, he replied diplomatically: "This issue is not what job they offer but what policy the government will pursue."

## Peter Kellner on the challenge facing Len Murray's successor



On the face of it, the trade union movement is back to where it was when Len Murray became the TUC's general secretary 11 years ago. Then ten million people - just under 50 per cent of Britain's workforce - belonged to TUC-affiliated unions. By 1979 the number had climbed to 12 million, and Mr Murray could claim that the TUC represented a majority of workers. Today the total membership is back to ten million, and once again they form a minority of the workforce.

However, the crude equation of the trade union movement in the early 1970s with its condition today conceals more than it reveals. What it conceals is the movement's social transformation. Within the unchanged total of ten million, there are now:

- one million more white collar members, and one million fewer blue collar members;
- 700,000 more members working for national and local government, and half a million fewer members in traditional heavy industries;
- half a million more women, and half a million fewer men;
- one million more home owners, and one million fewer council and private tenants.

It is hard to overstate the impact of these shifts. For during Len Murray's tenure at Congress House, the centre of gravity of the trade unions has shifted from underpaid men with traditions of class loyalty to relatively prosperous families - people who see a mortgage as a more useful instrument of liberation than a shop steward. Many of the problems that will face Norman Willis, Mr Murray's likely successor flow from that central fact.

It also explains why the trade unions have been strangely impotent in the face of rising unemployment. The recession, far from reversing the trend to prosperity within the unions, has paradoxically reinforced it. Most of the victims of the recession have been semi- and unskilled workers. Analysis of recent MORI data on almost 10,000 people throughout Britain reveals that the unemployment rate among working class council tenants, at 21 per cent, is three times that among working class home owners. Although the unions as institutions have suffered to the tune of two million lost members during the past five years, the membership that remains is more concentrated than ever among home-owning skilled and white-collar people with jobs.

Politically the strains are beginning to show, and the defences against manipulation by union leadership may be unable to prevent the ties between the Labour Party and the union movement from fraying beyond repair.

As the chart shows, the last Labour government was elected in October 1974, with the support of 55 per cent of trade unionists who voted. It was scarcely an overwhelming endorsement, but it was at least a majority. In 1979, Labour almost lost that majority, and the proportion voting Conservative rose to 33 per cent. Last June, only 39 per cent of trade unionists who cast their vote chose Labour. A clear majority chose the Conservatives or the Liberal/SDP Alliance. Among the growing number of white-collar union members Labour came third, behind both the Tories and the Alliance (see table).

## Can the brothers ever be wooed back to Labour?

It is worth dwelling on Labour's performance for a moment. Around 8.5 million trade unionists used their votes. Of these, 3.3 million voted Labour. The trade union block vote at Labour's annual conference is deemed to represent six million political levy-paying trade unionists. Even allowing for the way some unions buy extra votes with their affiliation fees, it seems that some two million union members who pay the political levy fail to vote Labour.

At the latest count last month, the Conservatives had slipped to 26 per cent, with Labour at 31 and Alliance at 21 per cent.

Since last June, there has been a 12-point recovery in Labour's support among unionists. But at 31 per cent, it is only a bare majority; and if this figure were reflected in a general election now, there would still be at least one million levy-paying union members not voting Labour.

If Mr Murray has left one indelible mark on the union movement it is in carefully stuning it to some of these awkward facts. In particular he has opposed the notion that the TUC should act as an exclusive property of the left. Both last year and in 1982 he carried the TUC's annual congress with his argument that the unions should talk to the Conservative government - a government that at least 2.6 million union members, if few of his immediate audience, had helped to elect.

His 1982 speech provided a vintage example of his technique of declaiming to the left but dealing to the right. Two-thirds of the speech consisted of an attack on the Tories. "We have to build united opposition to this government's policies... workers in engineering and other manufacturing industries know that talk of a recovery is a cruel

deception... we must sustain the campaign against mass unemployment... and so on. But the real purpose of his speech was not to provide delegates with any fresh insight into the nature of the recession, but to soften them up for his argument for keeping the unions involved with the National Economic Development Council.

He won the argument then, but he has lost it since. Ironically, the cause of the TUC's withdrawal from the NEC came this year - its opposition to the withdrawal of union rights at the government's communications headquarters at Cheltenham - was publicly popular: every poll conducted during the early spring showed that most people opposed the Government's action. But support for the unions on this issue could not outweigh the general hostility of the public, and even many union members, to the power and actions, real or imagined, of union leaders over many years. Whatever influence the TUC wielded in the affairs of the nation was, in the minds of most people, too great. If it chose, even in a popular cause, to surrender some of that power, few would object.

There has consistently been a substantial public majority agreeing that "trade unions have too much power in Britain today". The proportion reached its peak, 82 per cent, in September, 1978, when the TUC withdrew from its agreement with the Labour government on incomes policy - a decision that paved the way for the winter of discontent. Since Mrs Thatcher came to power, the number has steadily fallen, to 68 per cent after last year's general election. Nevertheless, that still means that two out of three electors continue to feel the unions have too much power, and they include a majority of trade union members themselves - 56 per

cent at the last count. The same survey found that a clear majority of union members supported Conservative policy on union behaviour: 83 per cent wanted secret ballots for the election of each union's executive; and 75 per cent thought strikes should be called only after a ballot.

The Conservatives do not get everything they might want. Sixty-nine per cent of the public (and 70 per cent of union members) agree that unions should hold ballots every ten years to decide whether or not to pay money to any political party; but identical numbers want the same rules to apply to companies and their shareholders. Legislating for one but not the other might prove politically counterproductive: hence the prudence of the recent deal between Mr Murray and Mr Tom King, the Employment Secretary, to put legislation on the political levy on ice.

At the same time there has been no decline in the large majority agreeing that "trade unions are essential to workers' interests". What seems to be happening is that the public as a whole, and trade unionists in particular, take an increasingly "instrumental" view of unions - they are good things when they deal with members' immediate problems, but bad otherwise.

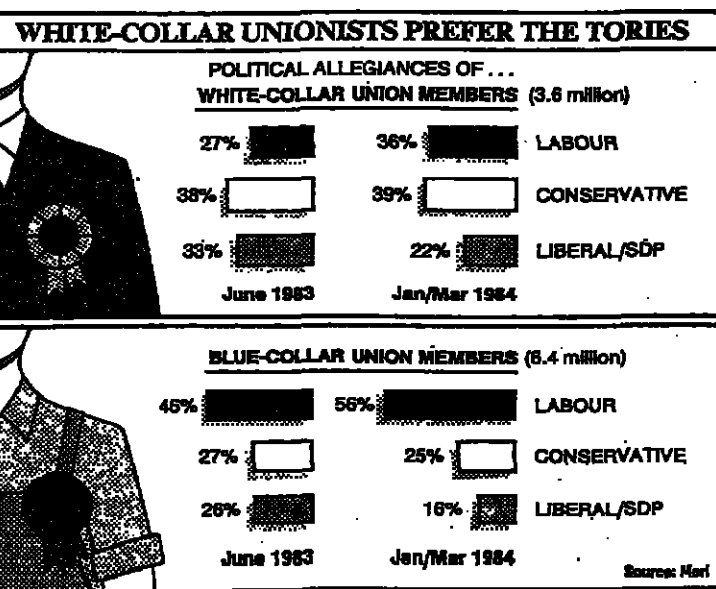
A MORI poll four years ago found that a clear majority of union members were satisfied with the leadership of their own union, but thought that "most unions" (presumably other peoples') were "controlled by a few extremists and militants". These attitudes will make life difficult for Mr Murray's successor. Individual unions may be able to draw on the goodwill of their members in adapting to economic and social change. For some unions the main task is to defend its members against upheaval; for others it is to exploit the opportunities of upward mobility. The TUC, however, must try to embrace both positions, and it does so without any instrumental loyalty of individual members to draw on.

One result is that the TUC's capacity for collective decision-making is essentially negative. In 1978 it was able to end Labour's incomes policy, but unable to propose anything in its place; the winter of discontent followed. In 1982 it effectively put an end to Aslef's strike against British Rail, and last autumn its opposition to the National Graphical Association's tactics against Eddie Shah earned the NGA's defeat. What the TUC has been unable to do is create an effective, united union campaign against the Government.

At root, the TUC is in the business of pork-barrel politics. It may not be the most elevated political function, but it can still be useful, even essential, as past Labour and Conservative governments have found. Today, things are ominously different. The TUC's membership has changed the shape of the barrel, and Mrs Thatcher has taken away the pork. For Len Murray's successor, the question boils down to this: what - if anything - can he do about it?

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The author is political editor of the New Statesman.



## Across the Thames a mirror image

Anne Sofer

A characteristic anecdote about Ken Livingstone concerns his recent visit to Amsterdam. During the flight he was invited up front and told by the pilot that he had "been a bit better in the last year". "Never mind," was the reply, "I'll be a lot worse again next year." That trick of apparent self-deprecation that in fact concedes nothing, that flip charm - don't we all envy them?

But intended or not, it was probably a telling prediction. He almost certainly will be worse next year. The good behaviour that has characterized the Labour leadership at County Hall for the last nine months as they posed as the champions of democracy cannot last for much longer.

There has been a feeling among all decent-thinking people over this period that to criticize the County Hall socialists was somehow bad form: it would weaken the cross-party campaign. Those who felt that constitutional principles were at stake - and that embraced a huge swathe of opinion from the centre of the Tory party leftwards - bit their tongues and held their peace. Now, to their fury, they see that the reward for their principled support has been the total propaganda victory of a political tendency they deplore.

What stirred the Tory wets to rebellion was the prospect of central government interfering in what local people had properly determined in an election. The left at County Hall has no such respect for elected government: the concept, rather like the House of Lords, is cynically called in aid when it is convenient and rubbished when it is not. "Bad laws are made to be broken", Parliament has no blank cheque to do what it wants. "Why should the working class obey Tory laws?" - all are common clichés at the socialist rally or party caucus, though used with more discretion in public recently.

With the meeting of Labour leaders in Sheffield this weekend, and with Livingstone's own paper, *Labour Herald*, openly arguing for defiance of the rate-capping legislation, this caution will be abandoned. Yet rate-capping, monstrous though it is, is certainly a more dangerous constitutional innovation than the paving Bill - is now the law. What is more it was in the Conservative manifesto and Mrs Thatcher, by a neat arithmetical coincidence, can claim precisely the same mandate for it (42 per cent) as that which gave Labour the control of the GLC in 1981.

The coming year will very likely see a rerun of that first year of left-wing Labour power, when on many occasions the left (including Livingstone) voted for proposals they had been outside their legal powers, and were saved from the consequences - possible surcharge and disqualification - only by the defection to legality by the moderate ramp within the Labour group.

The action agreed on by a number of the left-wing councils at Sheffield is apparently that suggested by Ted Knight, leader of Lambeth council.

They will refuse to set budgets at all. Livingstone is quoted as predicting gleefully that this would mean no money to pay interest charges - "I should think the banks will be quaking in their shoes". They won't be the only ones. By the same token there will be no money to pay teachers, dustmen or firemen either. It is part of Trotskyist ideology to believe that a breakdown of normal life will precipitate a new revolutionary uprising in which the working class will overturn the government. Not all these politicians are Trotskyists but they respond to the imagery. The defiance with Sinn Féin, the defence of intimidatory picketing, the calls for a general strike - all these are part of the same mental intoxication.

So much for the left's concern with democracy. On the issue of local government itself there is a similar gulf between its parliamentary defenders and modern municipal socialism. For practitioners like Geoffrey Rippon in the Commons or Phyllis Steadman in the Lords, the essence of local government is pride in its localness, the special and unique circumstances of each area: respect for parochial concerns; close knowledge of local traditions and institutions.

That whole cast of thought seems almost to belong to another age. The parish pump has become the political platform - and individuals scramble on to it with no local track record whatever. Livingstone, in his dozen years in local government, has represented five different areas all over London. If he does indeed force a by-election in Paddington it will be a singular event in his career: the first time he has stood in the same place twice.

Mrs Thatcher has played into his hands, partly because she loves a fight and partly because she sees the battle in the same terms as he does: monetarism against high public spending. Both will invoke the whole litany of democratic self-righteousness - the sanctity of elections, the holiness of the mandate, the preciousness of constitutional propriety - to help their cause while they fight it out to the death, but in neither case will it be more than a cover for what they regard as more fundamental issues.

There are in fact a strange mirror image of each other. Their patience with the conventions is perpetually close to snapping point. Neither has any compunction about politicizing whatever people and institutions they can drag into their domain - indeed regard it as such a natural activity that any objections are treated contemptuously as mere hypocrisy. Both have a vision of a different society that beckons so alluringly that any short cut to it seems excusable. Both burn with zeal. And it is likely that local government, which for all its faults has managed to preserve a tradition of dispersed democracy, will never recover from the conflagration.

The author is SDP member of the GLC/ILEA for St Pancras North.

## Ferdinand Mount

### Dead wood still has roots

One of the worst fallacies in British government is the Fallacy of the Fresh Mind. This is the belief that the answer to any difficult, longstanding problem is to bring in a new minister. It is usually, though not always, allied to the New Blood Fallacy, which is the belief that the new minister ought to be young, dynamic, unscarred by failure and so on. But even if he is rather old, sluggish, and quite horribly scarred by failure, he is, we are to believe, at least better than the Old Gang.

I am sorry to use so many capital letters, but we are dealing here with blocks of predigested thought, and been of asking for a separate typeface. I know no better way of representing these conventional responses to difficulty.

The British government's treatment of Northern Ireland is the best example. For the Northern Ireland problem is not weird and unique and "typically Irish". It is like other problems for which there exists no stick short cut, only more so. The cost of error is more dreadful, and the belief in the need for new ideas, or fresh minds, more persistent.

Last week Mr James Prior made a remarkable speech in a Commons debate on the report on the New Ireland Forum. He said: "I have to tell the House that I have changed my view over the years. At one time, I felt that a major, strong and effective political response would in itself prevent terror. Now I am of the belief that in the short run political progress may increase terrorism, for a short time before things improve."

So, far from being the answer to violence, "political progress" might make it worse, at least in the short run. And that was not all. Later on in his speech, Mr Prior said: "I warn against dramatic or hasty gestures and the constant cry for new initiatives. Only by steady and quiet progress and confidence-building can we achieve results."

When Mr Prior took the job, he was himself warned against just such hasty gestures and new initiatives. And not a blind bit of notice did he take. Off he went with his own personal new initiative, to which every incoming Secretary of State seems to feel entitled. And it is a dust with the usual predictable thud. For once, it gives even the most curmudgeonly critic no pleasure to be able to say "I told you so". It is like shooting a sitting turkey.

Why should Mr Prior have fallen victim to intuition? He is not a stupid or hasty man; he is a good deal more sensitive to feeling and atmosphere than many politicians.

Yet he too felt he could find a solution to the Irish problem, providing only that he was given a free hand.

This, of course, is easily recognisable as a preconscious attitude. One is going "out there" to govern - sort them out, if you like. What is less often recognised is that the same thing happens on the mainland too. We hear that Bodger is going to Energy, or being sent to Education, or being exiled to Agriculture. And we are usually told (by Bodger) that he has requested and been granted a free hand.

But, in most cases, the last thing Bodger should be given is a free hand. He will usually be ignorant of the history and the present facts of the problem - ignorant even of both history and facts are disputed. He will be unaware - because he has been concentrating so hard on surviving in his own last department - of what has been tried before and why it failed. He is therefore an ideal subject to be hypnotized by the view of his new department. The department may not even out to mesmerize its new master, but Whitehall, like nature, abhors a vacuum, and he cannot help soaking up the atmosphere.

Reshuffle now, cut out the dead wood, growl the headlines - when it's the longer-serving ministers like Mr Heseltine and Sir Keith Joseph who are really beginning to understand how to make their department work. If Mr Prior were permitted to stay on in Northern Ireland (which seems unlikely), his next couple of years might be crowned with unconvincing success.

The other day I met a minister in the Dutch coalition government who told me that in the Netherlands virtually no minister is ever sacked, since they are appointed by their parties; reshuffles are all but unknown. True, they did get stuck with one or two duds for the duration but, on the whole, the system seemed to work well enough. It is, of course, the Dutch government, and not the British, which is organized like the majority of other human institutions.

There is also something of a psychological paradox to be observed. The longer-serving minister may well have built up enough confidence to go out and confer with his colleagues - instead of walling himself up in his ministry with his officials. It is the insecure fresh mind who won't take advice, who always thinks somebody is trying to teach him his job. Stale minds do solve problems. And some plants flower off old wood.





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## JOBS HELD TO RANSOM

"The crucial truth, which is not generally understood, is that all the powers employed by individual trade unions to raise the remuneration of their members rest on depriving other workers of their opportunities."

It is worth recalling the wise words of Professor Hayek on the day when Mr Arthur Scargill continues his discussions with the National Coal Board. Mr Scargill has never made any secret of his determination to preserve his own members' jobs at the expense of other peoples'. He has demanded sacrifices from the steel workers and from those in the transport industries. The subsidies he demands for the maintenance of an unchanging level of employment in coal, regardless of the price or demand, penalise workers throughout the country, both through the general taxation required for maintaining such a subsidy, and through the inability of businesses to import cheaper coal on account of the coercive desire of the National Union of Mine-workers to enforce its monopoly.

No settlement of the mine-workers' dispute should therefore be based on the notion of subsidised jobs. That notion itself elevates the primacy of the producer at the expense of the consumer. In his paper on unemployment and inflation, reproduced in a revised edition today by the Institute of Economic Affairs, Professor Hayek had more to say about that:

"If a free society is to continue, no monopoly can be allowed to use physical force to maintain its privileged position and to threaten to deprive the public of essential services that other workers are able and willing to render."

The coercive mentality of the producing trade unions has been vividly illustrated each night on our television screens. Mr Scargill went on the screen himself last week, not to disavow what he has seen and heard but to applaud some aspects of it: "I have no word of rebuke for any of my miners who are on strike," he said. No rebuke for bricks

through windows, for trucks tampered with so that their brakes might fail, for cars overturned, for women injured on their way to work in the offices of the Coal Board, not to mention the pervasive and massive intimidation of working miners both as they brave the picket lines and as their wives confront the menaces directed at them for the pavement outside their homes.

This is one consequence of the baleful influence of coercive and monopolistic power among trade unions. Another is its effect on the continuously high rate of unemployment, derived from the restrictive power which trade unions exercise over the availability of jobs.

Where there is a choice between more money for those in work and more jobs without more money most trade unions will opt for the former. They do so in the face of the fancy rhetoric and compassion which is on display at union conferences. But the evidence of this selfishness stares out from the economic statistics.

In 1983, total cash incomes and expenditure in Britain were 46 per cent higher than they were in 1979, but real output was no higher and recorded unemployment had more than doubled. The fashionable response to the unemployment figures, in defiance of the message of these statistics, is to call for less restrictive monetary policies from the government, when of course it should be to call for fewer labour monopolies and less restrictive wage policies from trade unions.

That implication is enhanced by any close analysis of the long-term unemployed. It shows that they are concentrated among young people in their early twenties. They have been kept out of employment more by the selfish influence of monopolistic trade unions, operating to maintain high minimum wages, than by any real or imagined monetary policies of the Government.

A statutory minimum wage, whether established by trade union agreement or official

regulation, is a restrictive practice, and one of the worst. It is a major source of economic distortions in Great Britain. It denies employment to thousands and, assisted by rent controls and the rigidities of council housing, inhibits the redeployment of resources on which the sustained growth of the British economy will depend. It must be time now for the Government to indicate clearly that it intends to abolish wages councils next year when it can.

That would be a start; but as Mr Charles Hanson states in a postscript to the Hayek monograph, today, the attainment of the high ideals of a free society and a recovering economy needs a further assault on the entrenched privileges of monopoly trade union power, hiding as they do behind their legal immunity and holding society to ransom.

Mr Hanson concentrates on the need to ensure that unions in essential services should have all their immunities removed, and that each individual in the public services should sign a no-strike clause in a new contract of employment.

The Government should go further by reducing the areas in which there is a public monopoly from within which coercive trade union power could emerge to threaten society. In the aftermath of the coal strike, whenever that is, ministers should certainly consider some splitting up of the NCB, followed by privatisation of its resulting sectors. Such an attitude could then be applied more widely throughout the public services so that monopoly provision is kept to an absolute minimum and with it the threat of coercive trade union power.

Beyond that, of course, every effort should be made to reduce the power of the closed shop, not just from within those areas of monopoly but from the whole of industrial society where its continued existence is an affront to all the principles of individualism and freedom on which an open society and economy are based.

## A STEP TO BE WATCHED

Sir Keith Joseph is a very good Secretary of State for Education. He has been accused of dogmatism, but that only means that he has convictions and believes that a politician should do more than let himself be blown by the easy wind of contemporary fashions. He has been described as looking intense and agonized, which means no more than that he thinks and allows people to see him, so to speak, thinking. His greatest contribution to his present post has been his willingness to subject what has been the received wisdom of the educational establishment for two decades to intellectual challenge, disregarding the taboos with which it has been so lavishly guarded.

Above all, he has helped to change the climate of educational opinion away from a slavish adherence to egalitarianism. He has reassured the case for high educational standards in the context of equality of opportunity rather than socially engineered "equality", and has insisted on providing conditions in which more children can achieve positive standards. For example, he has vigorously advocated a move to criterion-referencing in examinations, that is to say assessment by absolute standards, and against the departmental intentions he inherited, the amalgamation of

the O-level and CSE examinations will not, after all, take a form which blurs the line between that part of it which can be taken by pupils of O-level capability and those aiming at a more basic attainment. Not least, he came openly to the rescue of the Cox-Marks report on comparative standards in a selective system when the attempt was made to rubbish these findings by leaking of adverse opinions from inside the DES.

There now, however, appears to be some risk that Sir Keith might seem to be putting a foot wrong. He has asked his Permanent Under-Secretary, Mr David Hancock, to commission a report from a group of professional economists which alleges serious Marxist bias in an economics section of the Open University social science course. Mr Hancock has asked the vice-chancellor of the Open University to look at this course for students, particularly because of its raised questions of possible ministerial interference in the internal teaching arrangements of a university. The question has even arisen whether the funding of the OU (the only university to get its money direct from the government rather than through the University Grants Commission) might be affected.

## FATHERS AND SONS

At last there appears to be common ground on which to base genuine dialogue between the USSR and Britain - an opportunity unfortunately missed by Sir Geoffrey Howe during his Moscow talks. The Atlantic alliance retains some importance, of course, but when it comes to preserving the gains of civilization from the onslaught of a new dark age, both sides of the Iron Curtain in Europe should surely unite against the threat of our values posed by United States cultural imperialism.

On a Moscow Radio programme for young people the music editor of *Komsomolskaya Pravda*, a local newspaper published in the Russian heartland of Krasnodar, pointed out that every form of art carries some political or ideological concepts, and modern rock music is no exception. American sabotage centres were investing considerable resources in a plot to corrupt young Soviet minds with pop music. "This thesis was formulated very precisely by Allen Dulles, one of the forefathers of the CIA. He said that if we teach young Soviet people to sing our songs and dance to them, then sooner or later we shall teach them to think in the

way we need them to." Soviet music specialists argue that Western Europe has already sunk below a wave of CIA-inspired punk rock - "a kind of musical drug, rhythm music which sets the crowd going". And now teenagers in the USSR, tape-recording music from western radio broadcasts, risk the same terrible fate from this "system for brainwashing the individual". Moscow has discovered that "to be a personality is essential to think for yourself" and is therefore jamming the BBC, Radio Liberty, the Voice of America and other purveyors of pornography to protect the youngsters of the USSR.

Unfortunately the punk movement has already penetrated even to the discotheques of Krasnodar: "faces of savages, spiritual devastation, profaned, poisoning - evidently the deliberate work of Western ideological workers who dream of corrupting our youth". Foreign records are selling on the black market for as much as a month's wages. This spiritual poisoning has done terrible damage to the future builders of communism. Some wear T-shirts emblazoned with the Stars and Stripes; most wear United States jeans, and all

of them seem to prefer western pop music to the Internationale. Most at fault are the children of the elite: rich, cynical and protected by parents who pull strings to enter them in the USSR's special English-language schools, and then pay huge bribes to install them in the best universities and institutes, guaranteeing them a privileged place in Soviet society.

The death sentence passed in a Krasnodar court on "Iron Bella", the woman director of catering in Black Sea holiday resorts who was found guilty of accepting bribes, was only one indication in the Soviet press of a trail of corruption leading to the top. The local Party chief, Mr Sergei Medvedev, was eventually dismissed from the Central Committee under the Andropov regime along with another of President Brezhnev's protégés, the Minister of Internal Affairs who had headed the notoriously corrupt police force, Army General Nikolai Shchelokov.

A society based on bribery can hardly expect to produce a generation capable of building a brave new world. Perhaps on reflection the poison of punk rock is no worse than the USSR's home-produced problems.

## Fear of loophole in Police Bill

*From Sir Eric St Johnston*  
Sir, The controversial Police and Criminal Evidence Bill is in the last stages of debate in its passage through Parliament and, though it is very late in the day, may a retired police officer express his apprehension of the effects of this Bill on police work should its provisions become law in their present form - a concern which he knows is shared by many chief constables.

One understands the desire of the Government to rationalize and codify the law on police powers, thereby protecting the rights of law-abiding citizens, but, at the same time, they must be careful not to put the police into a straitjacket when they have to deal with the criminal elements in society.

It is fully appreciated that members of both Houses are anxious to protect the inadequacies in society, i.e. the poor, the illiterate, the simple-minded and the ethnic minorities, to ensure that they are not put to improper pressures by the police, but the law which protects the inadequates will also protect the professional criminals.

One can be sure that professional criminals and their lawyers will regard the Bill as their charter. Previously, the Judges' Rules have been a curb on police interrogations, but they have only been rules of advice and have not had the force of legislation. As a consequence judges have been able to use their discretion when allegations have been made by defence counsel that the rules have not been observed.

In future, however, counsel will be able to cross-examine police in detail on the procedures they have adopted and they will have the Act to support them.

There is a real danger that, as a consequence, there will be an acquittal, not because the facts are in dispute, but because the defence are able to show that some detail of the procedures has not been followed.

It is to be hoped that the House of Lords will ensure that the wording of the Bill is so framed that the police will not lose cases merely because the detailed procedures have not been carried out.

Yours faithfully,  
ERIC ST JOHNSTON,  
Old Swan House,  
Great Rissington,  
Gloucestershire,  
July 6.

## Water going to waste

*From the Director-General of the Federation of Civil Engineering Contractors*  
Sir, You report today (July 5) that some eight million people now face the prospect of restrictions on their use of water. While this is blamed on this year's low rainfall it also has to be said that over a quarter of the water that is pumped into our water mains leaks out before it reaches the consumer.

Apart from the cost of collecting, purifying, and pumping all this water to no purpose this rate of leakage also aggravates the problems in a drought. Far more water is currently leaking away, through cracked and faulty pipes, than people would ever wish to sprinkle on their lawns.

It must also be true that water is being drawn unnecessarily from rivers and aquifers with obvious environmental damage. While it is clearly not possible to eliminate leakage altogether we could, and should, be doing very much better. As with so many other areas of our national infrastructure the failure to renew and repair is increasing cost and inconvenience today and storing up much larger bills for the future.

Yours faithfully,  
D. V. GAULTIER, Director General,  
The Federation of Civil Engineering Contractors,  
Cowdray House,  
6 Portland Street, WC2.

## Crucial school time

*From Mrs M. K. Mitchell*  
Sir, I am retiring at the end of this term after a career in infant teaching, and so you can imagine the pleasure with which I read (*The Times*, July 4) of the recognition by the National Association of Head Teachers of the crucial importance of the reception class and the specialised nature of the teaching it requires.

Without wishing to decry the work of sixth-form specialists, I do hope that this point will be remembered when teachers' merit pay is considered.

Let us not forget that the infant teacher guides the most important intellectual discovery made by most of us - namely, learning to read.

Yours faithfully,  
MARY K. MITCHELL,  
4 Westbourne Avenue,  
Emsworth,  
Hampshire.

## Insecure Soviets

*From Dr Alexander Shtroumas*  
Sir, I would like to congratulate you on your excellent leading article, "From Tsar to commissar" (*Times*, July 2), which so convincingly dispelled the basically racist widespread attitude according to which the evils of the Soviet system are ascribed to the Russian national character, rather than to the national Marxism-Leninism forcibly imposed upon Russia by a sectarian clique of adherents to that ideological creed.

You are absolutely right when stressing that the Soviet regime is inherently insecure. This insecurity is the natural result of its total lack

## Keeping open path to higher education

*From Professor F. G. B. Millar, FBA*  
Sir, The fellows of the British Academy have been informed that the Secretary of State for Education, Sir Keith Joseph, has expressed his willingness to address them after their annual general meeting on July 12. This opportunity is more than welcome.

On the one side, the University Grants Committee has come to act as an agent of the Department of Education and Science, and the Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals has been absorbed in the short-term struggle to adjust to diminishing resources. The academy is thus one of the few national bodies which at least has the chance to speak with a clear voice about the fundamental issues raised by the crisis in higher education.

On the other side Sir Keith has a great deal to explain. The essential question is that of access to higher education in the coming decades. There are other issues, such as tenure and academic freedom and the severe pressure on arts subjects. But the major issues are posed, firstly, by the UGC's invitation to universities to contemplate just two types of future for the rest of the century: "level funding", or a steady decline in real resources.

Secondly, the DES has argued that we should and must react to a temporary decline in the birthrate by planning for a decline in student numbers.

Such short-sightedness cannot be allowed to masquerade under the guise of economic and social realism. We already provide higher education for a smaller proportion of the population than do our major competitors. Our three-year university courses are already relatively short and (in a sense) efficient, with a low drop-out rate.

Where, also, is it common for students to enter as undergraduates at 18 and emerge with a doctorate at

24? Yet the Government itself appears (rightly) to favour a widening of the school curriculum and a postponement of specialisation. As a corollary it should be urging universities to plan not for contraction but for four-year undergraduate courses.

If we think only in the narrowest of economic terms, we hear every day from industry of a shortage of engineers, of information technologists, of qualified persons at all levels. On a broader view, it is universally agreed that in the twenty-first century fewer hours will be worked per head of the population and that the highest unemployment rates will face the least qualified groups in society.

It is not only an economic necessity to maximise the attainment of skills as far as possible for each individual. There is also, on the one hand, a danger of major social turmoil from those who are both untrained and unemployed, and, on the other, an immense opportunity for increased personal fulfilment, with education can make a vital contribution.

These are only a few of the many reasons why I, for one, would listen with interest if the Secretary of State's move to explain on July 12 why it is sensible and realistic to plan for a reduction of access to higher education and of the contribution which the universities are to make to the welfare of the country.

I will be even more interested when and if the day dawns when our elected representatives in the House of Commons exercise their constitutional right to debate and decide such issues, which are fundamental to the future of the country.

Yours faithfully,  
FERGUS MILLAR,  
University College London,  
Department of History,  
Gower Street, WC1,  
July 3.

## Stratford transmitter

*From Mr Terry Hands*  
Sir, In brushing aside the RSC's assertions that the proposed large-scale transmitter at Beaulieu will displace the Royal Shakespeare Theatre and prevent performances from taking place, the BBC's Mr Bert Gallon (June 29) is notably vague.

All parties concerned in the debate are agreed that the effects of interference from the transmitter will be random. The variations will depend on the time of day, the season of the year, the number of transmitters in operation, the use of frequencies and the angle at which the radio beams hit different pieces of vulnerable equipment.

The BBC have, so far, defended the results of their restricted test set up at the time of the public enquiry by pointing out that 18 pieces of equipment in our theatre were unaffected and only two, a group of electronic typewriters and the stage lighting console, were disturbed. In fact, our stage-lighting console was rendered unusable, and the results of the tests conducted by our own typewriters and lighting console were not affected. The sound system was made inoperable instead.

The point is that interference from Beaulieu will be no less than a continuous game of Russian roulette. We shall never know when the lethal cartridge will arrive but

the first real bullet of the evening will kill the performance stone dead. The tests arranged by the BBC used two transmitters (six are proposed at Beaulieu) at low power (the real thing operates at a total of 1800kW) on two out of 79 proposed frequencies, on a quite different angle from the real thing. And they still got our lighting console.

It could cost £100 for each Stratford household to buy protection against the Beaulieu transmitter, protection which is imperfect. The BBC has specifically warned, in its planning application, that "the broadcasters cannot undertake to compensate anyone whose equipment requires modification".

The BBC are indeed, as Mr Gallon claims, a leading patron of the arts. Are we to view 24 aerials towering nearly 300ft above the ground as the BBC's contribution to enhancing the beauty of Shakespeare's landscape? Or do we suspect that the BBC's failure to deal with this and all the other reasons why another site must be found derives from a sense that in the BBC to patronise has more than one meaning?

Yours faithfully,  
TERRY HANDS,  
Joint Artistic Director,  
Royal Shakespeare Company,  
Royal Shakespeare Theatre,  
Stratford-upon-Avon,  
Warwickshire,  
July 2.

## Epilepsy ruling

*From Mr A. Aspinall and others*  
Sir, We are concerned at the ruling in the case of *R v Sullivan*, upheld by the House of Lords (Law Report, June 24, 1983) that an epileptic fit legally constitutes an episode of insanity.

The implications of this ruling are, first, under the present law, a criminal act, however trivial, committed during an epileptic fit, results in a mandatory order for hospital admission when a jury returns a verdict, "Not guilty by reason of insanity". In many cases, this is inappropriate.

Secondly, the increased social stigma which this label of insanity will attach to people with epilepsy.

A symposium recently held to discuss these issues concluded that changes in the law are desirable. As representatives of those present, we suggest that the following changes in the law should be made:

1. That the distinction between insane and non-insane automatism should be removed.

2. That an alternative special verdict of "Not guilty by reason of automatism" should be made available as an alternative to the special verdict of "Not guilty by reason of insanity".

3. That, should a plea of "Not guilty by reason of automatism" succeed, the judge's powers should be varied to give him wide discretion, ranging from making no order to

detention in a secure hospital at the Home Secretary's pleasure.

We believe that these wider powers could usefully be employed whenever a special verdict was delivered and are saddened by the failure of Parliament to give effect to the Butler proposals, which recommended the widening of discretionary powers as long ago as 1975.

Yours etc,  
A. ASPINALL, G. FENTON,  
P. FENWICK, A. MINTO,  
H. ROLLIN, S. WHITE,  
D. TAYLOR, J. TAYLOR.

As from: The Bethlem Royal Hospital and the Maudsley Hospital, Denmark Hill, SE25.  
July 6.

## Diplomatic fund

*From Mrs L. M. M. Murphy*  
Sir, The sad story of Miss Charlotte Owen's traffic accident at the hands of a Kenyan diplomat (report, June 27) prompts me to suggest that the Diplomatic Corps could surely be urged to set up a fund from which compensation could be paid, without prejudice, to the victims of "diplomatic accidents".

Yours faithfully,  
LYNETTE M. M. MURPHY,  
Mulberry House,  
Comberton,  
Northwich,  
Cheshire,  
June 27.

## Saving a green and pleasant land

*From Mr A. A. Wood*  
Sir, Your timely and perceptive leader (June 27) rightly stressed the national importance of countryside management where conservation and production can co-exist.

Because the countryside in many regions of Britain has become the farmers' factory floor, natural communities are now more likely to flourish in some urban areas amid factories, canals and on erstwhile derelict land.

With this in mind, the West Midlands County Council (itself an endangered species) has, on July 3, launched a nature conservation strategy to protect, and where possible, extend existing wildlife networks within the built-up area without affecting development land in the county.

The first wildlife plan for a metropolitan area, the strategy seeks to ensure that, by maintaining local semi-natural areas and by suitable planting and management policies within existing and future land reclamation schemes the surveyed nature links can be retained and improved.

Opportunities for wild flower meadows and woodland planting rather than manicured grass with specimen trees are available in every urban area where the intricate chains of open space wind their way through the built-up surroundings.

There are many places in Britain, where sensitive planning policies and a more suitable regime of planting and management (usually cheaper) can yield riches for all life to enjoy.

Yours faithfully,  
ALFRED A. WOOD,  
West Midlands County Council,  
County Planning Department,  
County Hall,  
1 Lancaster Circus,  
Birmingham.

## Museum charges

*From Mr Roy Miles*  
Sir, The suggested charges for the V & A Museum (report, June 26) must arouse in many people deep emotions and may I remind your readers that, when Prince Albert set up the V & A Museum, it was so that all the workforce of the British Isles could see beautiful things and so that craftsmen would be inspired to a better quality product.

By all means charge for special exhibitions - and why not a £10 "connoisseurs' day" once a week? There are many ways of raising funds, but how sad to deny the working population (whatever their class or creed) a visit to the museum by charge.

Furthermore, the costs of this would be very high, whereas a "connoisseurs' day" and high charges for special exhibitions would not interfere with the daily running of the museum, which gives so much pleasure to so many.

I remain, yours truly,  
ROY MILES,  
3 Trevor Square, SW7,  
July 2.

## Very wholesome

*From Mrs Jean Waudby*  
Sir, When I read somewhere last winter that brown bread is better for the birds than white, I had to talk my husband into changing over to wholemeal instead of white bread.

With the arrival of spring there could be no return to bad eating habits because the hedgehogs had to be fed.

This year they seem happier, healthier and more numerous than ever after their nightly slice of wholemeal soaked in milk (skimmed, of course).

Yours sincerely,  
J. WAUDBY,  
Kempes Corner,  
Boughton Aluph,  
Nr Wye,  
Ashford,  
Kent,  
June 28.

## Young maid's fancy

*From Dr E. L. Harrison*

Sir, Mr Penman's observations on Nausicaa (July 2) themselves call for correction on just one point. He refers to her as "a delightfully down-to-earth young woman, not too grand to do the family washing". But quite apart from the fact that servants went along too, and doubtless did the donkey work, Homer makes it clear that the real purpose behind the princess's trip to the river was to ensure she had everything clean and ready for herself and her bridesmaids should anyone suddenly pop the question.

Naturally, being somewhat sensitive on the point, she couched her request for a wagon in terms of doing the family washing; and her father, being a wise man, "Understood all, and agreed."

Yours faithfully,  
E. L. HARRISON,  
The University of Leeds,  
School of Classics,  
Leeds,  
July 4.







## THE ARTS

## Television

In the days when the Rhonda Valley meant coal, boys put on their helmets and lamps and suddenly felt they were men. Doing what father and grandfather had done, the feeling of comradeship, of belonging, of shared dangers, overwhelmed apprehension of danger to life and limb, even parental discouragement. There were times, of course, when there was nothing else to do. Now would be such a time.

In 1913, 40,000 men worked the 60 pits in the Rhonda. Now there is one, at Mardy. It was there that Chris Curlew went to make "Last Pit" in the Rhonda, which showed in two parts, "At Work" and "On Strike", on BBC2 on Saturday night and last night. Technically and qualitatively, he did an excellent job. Hopefully, the cumulative effect of weeks of television pictures of sickening confrontation did not deny him his audience.

When Mardy opened in the 1950s, it was expected to employ 2,000 men for 100 years. When the present strike closed it, there were 750 men and coal reserves were estimated at 15 years. There were 200 redundancies in the pipeline.

The picture of the communal thrill which drew them to the pits, the feeling of comradeship, of belonging, of shared dangers, overwhelmed apprehension of danger to life and limb, even parental discouragement. There were times, of course, when there was nothing else to do. Now would be such a time.

Even if there were other jobs, they would prefer their own tight-knit communities, their mutual trust and inter-dependence. They remembered previous struggles, disasters, even the days when Rhonda topped the league in pneumonia, like battle honours. Now the pit is the only place where some of their sons could find work.

One miner said he had only seen his wife for a few days in 10 weeks. Another said he would put his house up for sale rather than give in. Militancy was explained as a combination of pride and anger.

The picketing scenes were peaceful, initially, mutually embarrassing encounters spluttering into emotional debate. Thirty-six Mardy men have so far been arrested. One of them said he had felt dirty but undefeated. "Somebody," said another miner, "has got to re-ignite confidence in people that they can fight and struggle to get work."

Dennis Hackett

When *Arabella* reached Covent Garden in 1965, this paper reported the "triumph" of a wallflower. Richard Strauss's last collaboration with Hugo von Hofmannsthal has taken 20 more years, 50 in all, to reach Glyndebourne; but, in John Cox's new production and under Bernard Haitink's musical direction, it has found fresh, rich soil, and is blooming more healthily than ever.

It is not, of course, simply the crates of champagne, the bagets of flowers, even the two ornate swallows, uncannily, chose to find their way in during the Act II of love duet which makes this "typical comedy" feel as if it has really arrived - though it all helps. It is not only the radiance of Ashley Putnam's *Arabella*, the wonderful sympathy of Haitink's direction. Rather, it is a sense of harmony, of comeliness of mood and tone which draws together the evening and the work as a whole, recreating anew that "easy-flowing, happy creative labour" which Hofmannsthal recognised as unique to this opera.

Just as Haitink's buoyant, pulsing pace focuses even the opera's temporary longuets, so Julia Trevelyan Oman's designs in Glyndebourne's small space, concentrate the eye and the sensibility. Inspired by William Mann's critical study of Strauss's opera, she has rited Vienna for memories of the 1860s, and particularly the Hotel Munch: the curtain rises on a room with a view of the Neuer Markt through its sun-stained lace, and with Biedermeier detail knowingly grafted on to earlier eighteenth-century decoration, the world of *Rosenkavalier* is faded into sepia and harmonized in softer browns, greens and greys. The only splashes of bright colour, an absolutely right, Strauss's self-convincing roses, and the costumes of Adelaide, as absurdly gaudy and overblown as Regina Sarafy's vocal characterization.

Similarly, the anteroom of Act II is based on a sketch for the Sperl ballroom down to the last bentwood chair, affording only the darkest glimpse of the dancing. The real dancing here is internal, in the hearts of *Arabella* and *Mandryka*, and tugging constantly in the score.

This, then, is the climate in which *Arabella* must live, move and have her being. Ashley Putnam, from her first wonderfully still entry, holds within both voice and physical presence an equally harmonious



Radiance: Ashley Putnam as Arabella and John Brucheler as Mandryka

pattern of attributes: the patina of pride and coquettishness, the deeper dignity and vulnerability, the joy and tenderness at first in her eyes only and then pervading her entire being. It is a compellingly detailed, constantly evolving performance, everywhere cunningly paced she has a way of entering, yet never fully surrendering to the dizzying waltz of her emotions until the time is ripe.

Her relationship with Zdenka needs a little more developing and mostly on the side of Gianna Rolandi, singing the role for the first time. She is rosy, plump, spontaneous, both

as boy and woman, but, as yet, linguistic and vocal focus enable her to engage only at a general rather than a particular level.

The *Mandryka*, who sang opposite Ms Putnam in last year's Netherlands Opera production, is John Brucheler. It is the first, and will surely not be the last, time that Britain hears this distinctive, and musically intelligent baritone, rich in as many shades of deep brown as Viennese coffee itself. He can turn it to darkest black when anger and pain bring out the "daemonic".

Keith Lewis's Matteo, too, is played very much within the

voice, penetrating, ardent, petulant enough, and never for one moment degenerating into a mere figure of fun. For that we must look to the *Flakermilli*: not Gwendolyn Bradley as originally cast, but Eileen Hulse standing in.

Arthur Korn's Waldner is sharply observed, from the remaining click of the heels to the kicking of the boot under the table. He avoids caricature, while standing clear-etched in Strauss's extraordinary band of characters; as do the three suitors, Glenn Winslade, Geoffrey Moses and Jeremy Munro.

Hilary Finch

## L'incoronazione di Poppea Glyndebourne

With Robert Lloyd on duty as Timur in *Turandot* for the Royal Opera in Los Angeles, Roderick Kennedy took over as Seneca in the final two performances of *Poppea* at Glyndebourne. Lloyd's performance is

not an easy act to follow, but Mr Kennedy did oblige in every sense of that word. This imposing figure, with its egg-shaped dome and Pimen-like beard, dominated the stage at the end of the first act. Seneca's acceptance of death added stature to an act which otherwise ran the risk of being a little fancy.

The glory of Sir Peter Hall's

production, which is exquisitely lit throughout, is the closing scene in which it becomes absolutely clear that Poppea, in the person of Maria Ewing, has taken over Rome.

With this performance and that of Ashley Putnam, described by Hilary Finch above, it is certainly ladies' at Glyndebourne.

J.H.

## Opera

## A bloom in fresh, rich soil

Romanian Andrei Serban was a surprising choice as director of the Royal Opera's *Turandot*. John Higgins discovers his approach

## Escape from a prison of style

Tonight the Royal Opera open their first visit to America at the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion in Los Angeles as part of the Olympic Arts Festival. A toe was dipped in the California water a couple of years ago at this same house with *Falstaff*, a production shared between Italy, America and Britain which was built at Covent Garden. *Turandot* is the curtain-raiser and for once the ROH are taking the chance of premiering a production abroad rather than taking something tried and trusted from repertoire, although Peter Grimes and *Die Zauberflöte* follow later in the week.

Gwyneth Jones sings the title role - a first for her - and Plácido Domingo is Calaf. The same pair will be heard in London when *Turandot* begins the 1984-85 season on September 1, with Ghena Dimitrova and Nicola Marinucci (La Scala's final double choice for the Zeffirelli production last winter) taking over later in the month. Covent Garden's most surprising selection, however, has to be that of Andrei Serban, the Romanian director, to stage the opera.

Serban has so far stood on the avant-garde end of opera production. He began as a disciple of Peter Brook but first came to attention outside Romania by working at the Café La Mamma in New York. The play, though, that got him into opera was *Cherry Orchard* at the Lincoln Center, dressed in luminous white with an almost dreamlike quality. On the basis of that Brian MacMaster invited him to Cardiff for an *Ongin* which turned out a success.

It is well known that Covent Garden had abortive talks with a number of producers before assigning *Turandot* to Serban. But that does not seem to worry him too much. "I know that I come at the end of a line of chopped off heads, but isn't that rather appropriate for *Turandot*? And there he was a point. But what is the Serban approach to *Turandot*? Puccini biographical in the Tony Fisher style. Hollywood spectacular à la Zeffirelli. . . ?

Neither. Not will I follow the example of my fellow

Pure poetry: Serban at a rehearsal of *Turandot*

countryman, Pintilie, who once staged the Gozzi play, from which Puccini drew his inspiration, with an enormous *Turandot* surrounded by dwarves. He ended it with *Turandot*, who terrorized everyone, crushing Calaf to death. I will do the reverse. I cannot stand the idea of a totally cold *Turandot*; she has to be a balance.

"There is a feeling of mystery all around *Turandot*. Puccini's Peking is the far-away in ourselves, the deep down emotions which we do not always care to explore. It is a metaphysical poem. And perhaps the greatest mystery of all it what made Puccini change from a quasi-realistic story to a poem of darkness, love and sacrifice."

This may all sound a little heavy, but *Turandot* will also be treated as a piece of *commedia dell'arte*. "We'll have on stage what is in effect a theatre, a cross between a comedy and an amphitheatre, which holds the people of Peking. They are the collective, reacting to the monthly ritual of beheading with mass emotions - sympathy, ferociousness.

Ping, Pang and Pong are the stage managers, bored with their unchanging role of being the clowns of death. The crowd will all be masked, because I see the whole of China as a mask, and only the three strangers, Calaf, Timur and Liu, will show their faces. *Turandot*'s mask comes off at the end, as you may guess, for that final kiss, when, far from crushing Calaf,

she becomes the broken woman."

All that sounds not too far away from *The Trojan Women* that Serban staged at La Mamma. "Yes, it probably is an influence, and was in my eyes the most successful production I did before *The Cherry Orchard*. In staging it I drew on the experiences I had with Peter Brook in *Persepolis*. There you will find the predecessors of this *Turandot*."

By coincidence after *Turandot* Serban will work on another Gozzi-based opera, Prokofiev's *The Love for Three Oranges*. Which opens the Geneva season next September. Here the stress will be laid on surrealism, the fantasy world into which Russian poets such as Yessyeyin retreated at the turn of the century. Very different from *Turandot*. So is there a Serban style?

"No, definitely not. Possibly the most valuable lesson Peter Brook ever taught me was the need to escape from the prison of 'style'. [He certainly puts his teachings into practice by moving himself from Bizet's *Carmen* to Francois Billetdoux's *Tchin-Tchin*.]

I dislike having a 'style' attached to me as much as I dislike being lumped in with a mafia of Romanian stage directors. We are all totally different. I have a belief: in emotion. The heart is hungrier than the head."

And how that applies to *Turandot* Los Angeles will find out tonight and Paul Griffiths will report to us later this week.

## PUBLISHING

## Cheeky triumph

Faber and Faber is, or are, fun. Under the chairmanship of Matthew Evans, son of the country writer George Ewart Evans, they have added - difficult in the 1980s - a verve, even cheekiness to the publishing of serious authors and books. With Robert McCrum as editorial director, Pete Townsend as middle-aged pop person in residence, Martin Craxie in charge of the world's most famous poetry list, Desmond Clarke as the industry's ultimate (it is to be hoped) books-as-soap or Corn Flakes marketing man, plus a host of eager young things - as well as some older experience and stability - to aid and abet these considerable egos, the firm succeeds in publishing worthwhile books efficiently.

The Nobel prizewinners (Beckett, Golding) and world-famous novelists (Durrell) but the tip of the iceberg even including the poets (Flecker, Gunn, Larkin, Heaney). There is a host of worthwhile non-fiction, a most commercial nursing list, a distinguished children's programme and a trade paperback list which is so successful (it contributes 40 per cent of the firm's turnover) that it has led to the firm's publishers and out of the Publishers' Association paperback group in case the firm should pick up further tricks.

Faber (and Faber: maybe Matthew Evans's next achievement will be to lose the second Faber, who never existed anyway) have just become the first general trade publishers to sign a minimum terms agreement for writers with both the Society of Authors and the Writers' Guild. Hamish Hamilton did this with the Guild's minimum terms agreement a few years back, and W. H. Allen, it is assumed, similarly brought to the Guild's negotiating table entirely because they wanted to continue publishing books by BBC and TV screenwriters, such as the *De Woe* scribes. However, the new joint agreement is infinitely more to the advantage of authors than any document hitherto mutually agreed.

It is not, I hope, perverse to suggest that the new agreement is more of a triumph for Faber than it is even for book writers - because it publicly affirms that the house values its authors and that, henceforth, many more writers are going to want to be published by the Queen Square imprint. Mr Eliot's erstwhile company may, perchance, have made a great deal of money out of *Cats*, but

publishers are not in the business of charity.

First and foremost, contracts entered with Faber from August 1 (say the Society of Authors: September 1 says the final version of the agreement itself dated June 29) will have a licence period of 20 years from first publication rather than, as is at present *de rigueur*, for the duration of copyright. Thus if a book does well and remains in print, either in the original hardback edition or a reprint thereof, or in any sub-licensed edition, Faber will have no automatic right to go on publishing it as previously has been the case, either for fifty years after publication or from the author's death, whichever is the later.

In addition, once the book has been on the market for 10 years, the author, if he or she desires, may ask for the terms of the contract to be reviewed and improved in the light of comparable terms then prevailing. This may or may not be to the advantage of authors, as publishers tend now to offer lower royalties and tougher percentages than, say, ten years ago.

On top of the advance, Faber will pay up to at least £200 for copyright fees for illustrations and/or quotations; if the author does not wish to undertake his or her own index (and it is a moot point whether authors are sufficiently objective about their texts to do so), conversely, whether they know their books in such depth that they are potentially the best indexers) Faber will pay half the cost; the publishers will obtain the author's approval on copy editing, illustrations and blurb, and consult the author on jacket design and even publication date.

The author will be told (and he often will not like the figure revealed) how many copies have been printed, and Faber will pay an advance of 65 per cent of the author's estimated receipts from the sale of the first printing. And listen to this, especially if you are an author who has suffered from a punitive option clause: "The author shall not grant Faber an option or first refusal on any of his/her future works, unless the author so agrees and a payment is made to him/her specifically in consideration of the grant of the option."

What are Faber trying to do? Impress their authors, or those whom they would like to publish, or cock a snook at their more conservative competitors? I will settle for the lot.

E. J. Craddock

## Concerts

## Philharmonia/Muti Festival Hall

No one could accuse Riccardo Muti of playing safe in his current concert with the Philharmonia. Earlier this week, there was Cherubini's Coronation Mass, and last night a revival of a piece once popular in the 1940s but now almost totally neglected, Ernest Bloch's Violin Concerto. When was it last played? William Mann admitted in his programme notes that it was years since he had listened to it, the score I borrowed from the BBC had not been out of the library for a decade.

Manni was "delighted to rediscover the mastery, and the excitability, as well as the serene lyricism of its music", that was not quite the effect of this performance which had an altogether gloomy, sombre cast. Yehudi Menuhin played it with total commitment, and the occasional slips and patches of mistuning mattered very little beside the continual strength and vibrancy of his tone (though it was unfortunate that the worst mishap occurred at the very climax of the first movement cadenza).

And Muti conducted a sober accompaniment which concentrated on being as flexible as possible to accommodate Menuhin's rhythms and phrasings. But neither of them could quite persuade me that the work hung together; its melodic material (the first tune was described by the composer as 'American-Indian') is weak, its harmonic language rhapsodic, but not always interesting, its cyclical reminiscences feeble, and the whole thing is fundamentally too unvaried in its shun, wayward indulgence. I dare say there are worse pieces in the regular repertoire, and this deserves an occasional outing, but it was not the sort of experience to make one long to launch an immediate Bloch revival.

Unlike some, Gavin Bryars has composed a number of entirely captivating pieces - one thinks immediately of *The Sinking of the Titanic*, a masterful exercise in static music-drama. And indeed the first work we heard in this Almeida Festival concert, *My First Homage*, was a touching reminiscence of the composer's jazz career, which ended in the mid-1960s. The familiar old clichés, slowed down, were seen through a nostalgic haze of smoke evoked vividly by the instrumentation of two pianos, two vibraphones, double-bass and cymbals.

But after that a certain dourness of manner began to affect the music. *Out of Zaleski's Gazebo*, scored for eight hands on two pianos and written to celebrate the centenaries of the composer Siegfried Karg-Elert and the writer Raymond Roussel, took a more aggressive stance with its allusions to the music of Karg-

Elert, Percy Grainger and Lord Berners than the previous work. Partly for that reason it wore my patience dangerously thin, as did *Hi Tremolo* and *The Vespertine Park*, two of four pieces that can be played together in various permutations. Here Bryars would rise occasionally from his piano stool and with rather absurd ceremony strike a row of tubular bells. At least that action went a little way towards relieving the tedium of this entirely negative music.

One hoped for more interest in the *Three Studies on "Medea"*, paraphrases from Bryars's opera which, after a series of postponements, is due to be heard in Lyons in October. Sure enough, the four vocal lines procured a certain lyricism, though by far the most dramatic event came when the conductor, Richard Bernas, dropped his baton. But of course it would be quite unfair to judge the whole from these fragments.

Stephen Pettitt

## The Great Learning Union Chapel

How ironic that Cornelius Cardew's *The Great Learning* should take over two evenings at an appropriate bold climax to the marvellously adventurous Almeida Festival, should have become such an esoteric piece. Intended to encompass the abilities of untrained musicians, its unmanageable length has conspired against performances to such a degree that this was the first occasion that it has been given in its entirety since it was completed in 1970.

That, though, is probably how it ought to be, for more than anything *The Great Learning*, based on Confucian texts, is therapy for its singing, whistling screaming and banging exponents, or so it seemed on Saturday night in the first four of its seven Paragraphs. Its listeners are but humble ob-

servers of an extraordinary ritual. And yet the pebble-clashing effect of a lifetime's employment with a big conga, much as he is deposited in life like so much baggage. Here he is first taught to pronounce properly the phrase "I don't know", a lesson that serves him with increasing frequency as he is sucked into the activities of the secret police.

Choosing a negative hero, whose role is largely that of receptive observer, does present some structural difficulties. There is a slight imbalance between the first act, detailing with disarming insight the psychological pressures that begin to dislodge Klimkov's fragile mind, and the second act, when this mind breaks rather precipitately in a burst of self-assertion. While our understanding of Klimkov's claustrophobic fear is increased by seeing the weight of events from his perspective, this can sometimes result in the impression that the action is accumulating without also developing.

What stands out about the play, however, is Hannan's skill in evoking the atmosphere of corruption through a dialogue that contains moments of quite extraordinary insight and reveals his ability to pinpoint complex ideas and emotions through vivid imagery and quick intelligent humour. He depicts the isolation of his characters with great sensitivity as they succumb to self-deception and destruction in the face of constantly shifting truths.

This is consolidated by some strong and committed performances under Jenny Kiljick's sure-footed direction. Andrew Normington's Klimkov has the haunted eyes of a Petrushka, managing to look totally displaced without ever becoming ludicrous, while Jack Ellis as Chief of Police provides a chillingly callous counterbalance. With Neil Murray's meticulously atmospheric set, credit is due for building on the finest qualities of the play to enhance an intriguing subject.

Sarah Hemmings

## Brenda Solomon is incurable. Yet her laughter is infectious.

Brenda Solomon was training with Queen Alexandra's Nursing service when Multiple Sclerosis was diagnosed. As the symptoms grew worse, coping alone became impossible for her. So she came to the RHH.

Now, though confined to a wheelchair, Brenda keeps busy. She speaks German and French, reads avidly and visits museums when possible. She enjoys the regular choir practice

and concerts at the hospital and she especially enjoys her physiotherapy session. "When I'm on the stretching bars," she says, "I feel ten feet tall!"

We have over 270 incurable patients like Brenda at the RHH and we try to help them to regain as much independence as possible. Skilled nursing, therapy and medical attention help enormously. And our Research and Rehabilitation Wing examines and advances their long-term care.

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# Education and training

The world of training and education has to meet the challenge of new technology. This report coincides with the Education, Training and Development exhibition and conference in Birmingham on July 10-12.

Recently scores of unwary businessmen and managers have been gripped by the glittering eyes of touring Manpower Services Commission officials and, like wedding guests stopped by the Ancient Mariner, have been subject to lengthy discourses on Britain's wretched record on training.

Top officials like Geoffrey Holland and George Tolley, together with MSC chairman David Young, have been telling how our national neglect of training has become a severe handicap to our economic performance - a veritable albatross condemning us to chronic shortfalls in our industrial national performance.

The solution, says the MSC, is more action and commitment by employers to ensure that their staff are continually updated on the skills to make our industries more competitive. But for all the exhortations from the MSC there seems to be a deep complacency in Britain about the importance of structured training and qualifications. At the same time as Geoffrey Holland was recently haranguing financiers at the Stock Exchange, a trainee underwriter working round the corner at Lloyds confessed that he wasn't bothering to go on a formal course of training because none of his colleagues thought it was worthwhile and that it would be better to "pick things up through experience as I go along".

Unfortunately, from the City of London to the backstreets of Birmingham, formal training in Britain is viewed with scepticism. It is this deep entrenched cynicism which has provided a rationale for industry's prolonged lack of investment in human resources.

The training function has not been of sufficient status or attracted the right people to it to become really effective. The legacy is a "Why bother?" knee-jerk reaction which has proved difficult to break down.

That is why the MSC - now designated as the national training agency - has embarked on a major "Awareness" campaign

to turn round these attitudes of indifference. Using shock-tactics of pointing out how badly we lag behind our international competitors, Geoffrey Holland has been arguing that we have an "under-educated, under-trained under-motivated, inflexible and undependable workforce".

Is it surprising therefore that we are outgunned by the Japanese, the Americans and the Germans who all spend much more on training?

Clearly there are a number of firms, professional bodies, and public sector organizations which are active and positive about training. But the dominant position of the MSC, with its huge funds and massive programmes, makes it the inevitable centre of interest.

Through its youth training scheme, its network of skill-centres, its adult training strategy, and its wide range of other initiatives, the MSC stands at the cross-roads of education and training, industry and government, urging on the whole community to greater endeavours.

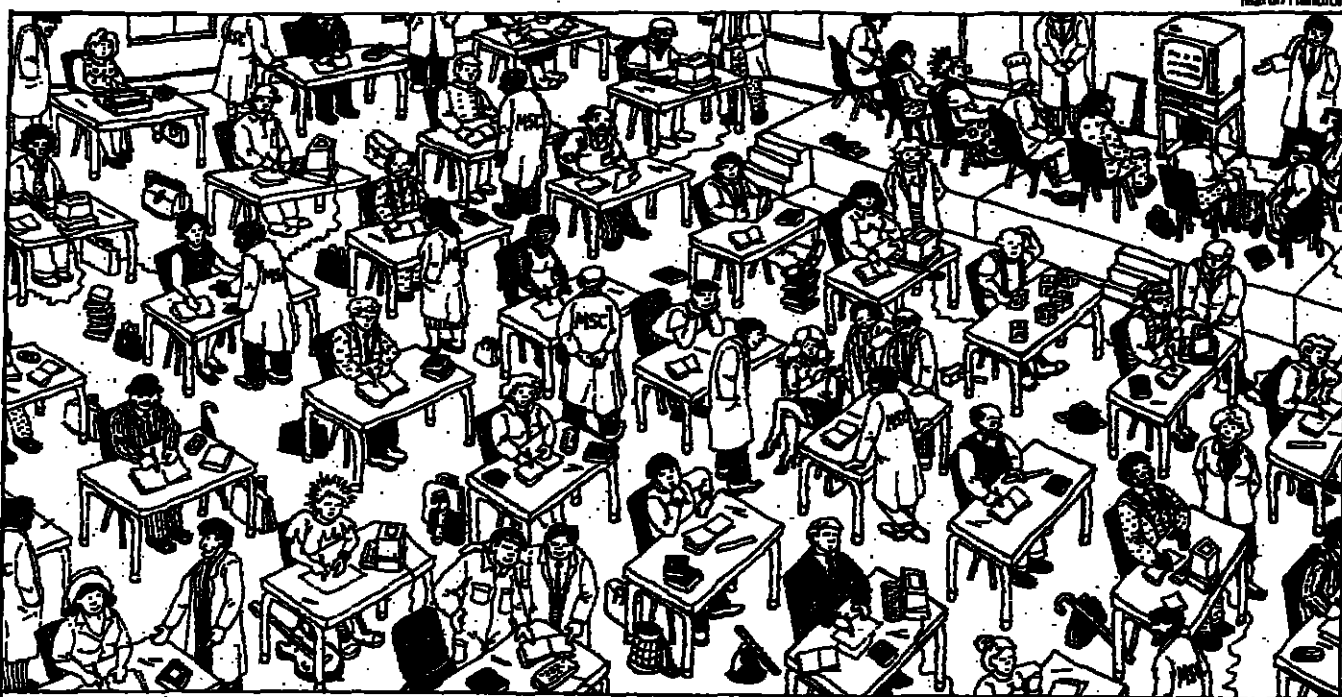
Now its particular target is employers. The policy of the MSC, which was used to justify the abolition of the industrial training boards a few years ago, is that employers know their own training needs best and shouldn't have to be told what to do by outsiders.

At the same time, as Geoffrey Holland complained recently, "when action is needed - for example over skill-shortages, to produce changes in the universities or elsewhere in the education system - employers have looked to government to act to foot the bill... the truth is that employers have not pulled their weight".

The Government and the MSC have therefore to walk a narrow line. Responsibility for

**"It is not surprising that we are outgunned by the Japanese the Germans and Americans who spend more on training"**

Edward Fennell



The face to make you listen: John Cleese is a founder member of Video Arts training films. See opposite page

training lies with employers, they say.

The employers are the ones who know best. Only sometimes they fail to act in their own best interests. Consequently they need the MSC to help crystallize and focus exactly what their requirements are and to provide a source of "market intelligence" on skill-availability.

So this is the way that the MSC projects itself - a catalyst in the process of helping industry meet its manpower needs.

For example as part of their effort to widen opportunities for adults (a key theme in the new training initiative) the MSC and the education departments have been encouraging local collaborative projects through which employers can receive grants for joint training activities with the MSC.

Likewise, initiatives such as the Pickup programme (to encourage further use of further education facilities by industry) are based on the premise of local employers working with local colleges in the provision of

Making training more accessible and encouraging flexibility of methods have resulted in important developments like the open tech and a modular approach to training in skill-centres. Training for information technology, for example, is now available so that employees can attend for one or two days or several weeks depending on their requirements.

Having made the facilities available, however, and preached the gospel of a new approach to training it remains to be seen how many converts will be clocked in. Given half a chance many people would prefer to continue with a lackadaisical approach. Only cast-iron evidence about the cost-effectiveness of training is going to win over widespread support.

## Who says a degree is necessary?

Britain's exit from the recession can be clearly tracked by the growth in computer job opportunities. The National Computing Centre keeps a close watch on the number of jobs advertised and has noticed a substantial increase in vacancies this year compared with last.

The fact that there are still three million unemployed is a sign that our new state of "normality" is radically different from the old. Jobs in computing are emerging very fast but most of the unemployed are in the wrong place, or at the wrong age, or with the wrong qualifications.

At the top end of the job market, where hardware and software interface, there is a chronic shortage of trained talent. Only the universities and polytechnics can produce people with the right skills. The shortfall in scientific and technology graduates has been a major brake on development.

For data processing there are not the same problems. According to George Penny, the NCC's employment expert, the balance of new entrants and job-vacancies is now just about right. Government initiatives combined with self-help by industry has managed to bring up the numbers to a respectable level.

And, of course, once staff have a couple of years' experience the prospects are terrific.

"A few years ago it was assumed that you had to be a graduate, ideally with a maths degree and preferably a First," said George Penny. "But, of course, that's nonsense. Our experience suggests that it doesn't really matter what your formal academic qualifications are so long as you're the right kind of person."

"We have now devised our own personal inventory, quite

but the scheme has had so many shining successes from among the less well qualified that it disregards the trainee's academic background."

"It's a 42 week 'double sandwich' with 18 weeks in college" and 24 weeks in college," says George Penny who oversees the scheme's nationwide operation. "Although the college-based study is intensive the practical work-experience enables the trainees to learn much more quickly than they would on a purely

not always) with a bias towards those who have already had some computing experience during their degree course."

The route in for many other people is via Tops computer programming courses. These have been running for several years now. Competition for entry is tough and the training demanding. Tops trainees also get the benefit of a supportive placement service although geographical flexibility is vital when it comes to getting a job.

Against this background, of intensive training, it is curious that formal computing qualifications have failed to attract strong employer support. Untrammelled by a framework of awards and tests individual operators and programmers tend to be judged purely on how well they can do the job.

Whether this continues to be the case remains to be seen. Both the City and Guilds of London Institute and the Business and Technician Education Council have very useful computing and information technology qualifications and it would seem inevitable that the industry will start to pay more regard to qualifications once it begins to stabilise.

Edward Fennell

## For computer training it really depends if you are the right kind of person

different from the conventional computer aptitude tests, and we think that it's possible to predict with some certainty who is capable of success."

So personal qualities generally, not just limited tests of logic, are felt to be the key to aptitude-assessment. The evidence for this comes from the NCC's own Threshold scheme which is making a major impact on the employment market.

The scheme is for 17-year-olds, who receive a one year course to turn them into 'basic grade' computer staff. The norm for entry is four O levels

class-room based course."

There are now about 1,000 youngsters each year going through Threshold. The employment success rate is high - over 90 per cent - with many trainees being taken on permanently by their work experience employers.

Despite Threshold's success, degree and higher national diploma-trained continue to form the largest single group entering computing as a career.

The majority of large organizations now recruit graduate trainee programmers often (but

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The funny man who makes you sit up and learn

## A touch of class with Mr Cleese

Predictably, the info tech bonanza has generated a corresponding boom in new and highly sophisticated training resources, many having the capability to completely transform both in-house and off-premise programmes.

The most wide-spread advance has been the conversion of most training films to a video format. The advantages are obvious. Video machinery takes up less space, can be easily integrated into packaged seminars or distance learning courses, and can be shown with sufficient lighting to enable participants to take notes. They are also cheaper to hire or buy.

It costs between £70 and £100 to hire a 25-minute video for two to three days and around £80 to £110 for seven to ten days. The same videos cost anything between £70 and £650 to buy, depending on the quality of the film and the subject covered.

Without doubt the premier company in this field is Video Arts, rapidly becoming a household name. From producing their first film *Who Sold This?* in 1971, they have progressed this year to producing a 25-minute video *More Bloody Meetings* (And the Bloody People Who Foul Them Up) which cost over £50,000 to make.

They are now filming a new video on safety attitude training called *Oh What The Hell* and recently undertook a major sponsored film on staff relations for Schlumberger Technical Services (Goddard Schlumberger).

The secret of Video Arts success is the involvement of almost everybody who is anybody in the field of British television comedy. A founding partner and leading mastermind behind most of the films is John Cleese (the character of Basil Fawcett was adapted from a

character part in a 1973 Video Arts film), and the chairman is Anthony Jay, former editor of *Tonight* and co-author of the successful BBC2 sitcom *Yes Minister*.

Among the television personalities who have appeared in Video Arts productions are Ronnie Corbett, June Whitfield, Dinah Lee, London, John Bird, Ronnie Barker and Penelope Keith. Their writers have included Denis Norden, Graeme Garden, Barry Took and Jack Rosenthal.

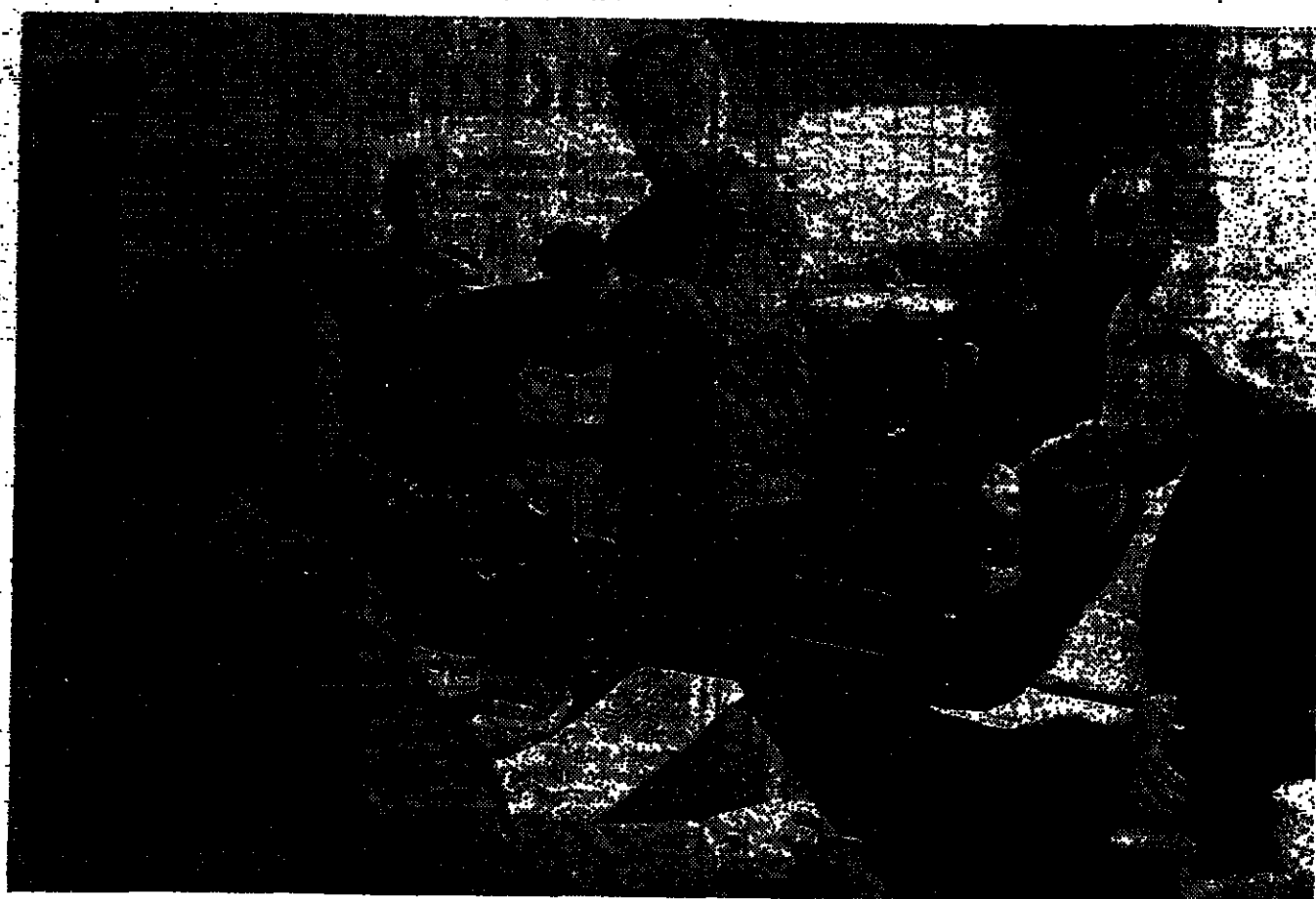
Many other companies are now very active contenders in the training video market. Gower TFI and Rank Aldis both have star-studded broad-based catalogues, and other active producers include ASI UK, Venture Communications, Videomania, Audis International and World Wide Pictures.

The impact of video as a training resource is likely to be rocketed sky-high by the development of 'interactive' programmes. Here the video tape is run in conjunction with a computer programme which stops the screening at certain points and asks the participant questions related to the data which he or she has just viewed.

### Interactive programmes

The concept of interactive video has been taken a stage further by the recent development of the videodisc. Unlike conventional video tape, the participant can use a simple key-pad to gain instant access to any part of the programme, reviewing sections or 'chapters' that he or she finds more difficult to understand.

Because the disc has two audio tracks, the participant can listen to a more detailed narrative when playing back



these sections, further enhancing the learning process. It also means that programmes have the ability to show the same film in two languages.

Videodisc has recently been introduced by Thorn-EMI, together with jointly-produced programmes illustrating its use in point-of-sale, training in schools, skills training and knowledge training. One of these illustrates how the disc can be used to train bus drivers and another, produced by the financial consultancy Cable & Finance, provides a complete course on *An Introduction to Foreign Exchange*.

The course has been well-received, and Cable & Finance are producing follow-up courses on advanced foreign exchange, the eurobond market and the balance sheet, which they hope to release within the next year.

The possibilities of interactive video are obviously huge, particularly in the field of distance learning. For the moment however, its development is being held up, partly because of the expense (companies will have to acquire the appropriate hardware as well as the video and software) and partly because (surprise surprise) there isn't sufficient software available to justify the investment.

The possibilities of information technology have been most profitably adapted to advanced simulators. A topical example is the introduction this year of the Simtex Multitrainer, a training and trainer assessment system developed by Thorn EMI Simtex, the company responsible for designing building and installing on-board training simulators for the Royal Navy.

Using the new system, it is possible to provide hands-on training in the full range of machine tool operations, from basic training to NC and CNC



Top: director Charles Crichton with John Cleese during the shooting of a training film. Above left: Anthony Jay, chairman of Visual Arts, and Penelope Keith, one of the training stars.

programming, before students and trainees attempt the potentially dangerous process of cutting metal on rotating machinery.

The dramatic acceptance of the micro-computer has made it



Top: director Charles Crichton with John Cleese during the shooting of a training film. Above left: Anthony Jay, chairman of Visual Arts, and Penelope Keith, one of the training stars.

possible to create management games which are highly sophisticated, yet easy to play and visually attractive.

As Chris Elgood, a leading supplier and co-author of the standard directory on manage-

ment games, explained: "While management was still seen as an intellectual problem concerned with the analysis of economic figures and the manipulation of relatively obedient factors of production, the games and exercises produced had a restricted scope."

Today there is an emphasis on the social responsibility of management and almost anything likely to increase a man's understanding of his fellow humans can be considered relevant. This means that a rich field of ideas and images represented by things that are games in the popular sense is now available to the creator of serious games.

The development of interactive video could revolutionise current training methods. As more and more companies find the resources to invest in the hardware and create in-house or off-premise learning centres, it only needs software suppliers to develop relevant programmes for the potential to be realised.

Michel Syrett

## Putting the busy boss back in the classroom

This month Henley Management College is launching a new kind of management course designed specifically for managers who are too busy to attend conventional residential seminars. The course combines four separate residential weeks spread over any period of up to two years with a series of four distance learning packages, using video tapes, audio tapes, written texts and self-assessment exercises.

Before the course, a personal counsellor from the college meets the candidate and his or her employer to work out a personal study plan. Each course is therefore tailored to fit in with individual work schedules and commitments.

The Henley course is a good illustration of how the major UK management colleges are belatedly responding to the market needs of companies recovering from the recession. In the late 1970s and early 1980s, the realisation that conventional management training had failed to contribute significantly to the level of national economic performance led to widespread disillusionment with the principles of management development generated by the Foundation for Management Education and the Franks Report.

The criticisms centred around two major failings of conventional training:

● **Content:** The courses were too academic, and failed to take into account day-to-day conditions which participants would confront on their return, or the individual needs of the company concerned.

There was little attempt to establish any extended relationship between members of the senior management team and the teaching institution, and most courses did not incorporate any way in which participants could keep their skills up to date.

● **Structure:** The cutbacks in full-time staff imposed by the recession means that many companies are finding it increasingly difficult to release managers for residential training. In addition, many managers dislike the "back to school" atmosphere of traditional courses.

The need for more tailored courses resulted in the launch last year of a new management centre, UMCS, based on the principles of action learning pioneered by Professor Reginald Revans.

The centre does not have a permanent campus. Instead, the teaching staff meet line managers and training staff, find out the organization's specific needs and mount tailor-made programmes using area-based facilities.

Participants in the MBA

programme must give an undertaking that they will continue to keep up to date after graduation. Their progress will be reviewed at intervals of five years, and any graduate who does not honour the commitment could forfeit the degree.

Tailored courses are now offered by many of the older centres. One of the most successful examples is the strategic managers programme created for the International Thomson Organisation (ITO) by Henley and the Oxford Centre for Management Studies. There, to facilitate a systematic programme of management succession, 12 of the group's high-flying executives thought to be board-level material were placed at Oxford and 28 managers considered good enough to fill the top operational jobs were placed at Henley.

In both cases, ITO and the participants themselves had a formative influence on the content of the curriculum and the teaching methods used.

### Huge response to courses

To overcome the restrictions training places on managers' time, many centres have been experimenting with distance learning courses. As part of its continuing education programme, the Open University launched an Open Business School last year, funded by the Foundation for Management Education and the British Institute of Management.

Among the distance learning programmes the school offers, there are *The Effective Manager* (aimed primarily at specialists entering general management), *Accounting and Finance for Managers*, *Personnel Selection and Interviewing*, *International Marketing* and *Start up Your Own Business*.

The response to the courses have been astonishing, with more than 2,000 participants on *The Effective Manager* alone.

Henley have also been active. Their distance learning centre offers two major courses, *The Effective Manager* and *Accounting for Managers*. They are now putting together a course on information management with the open tech, and have recently converted their popular MSc course to a distance-learning format.

Their launch this month of a new management course combining distance learning with tailored residential tuition breaks new ground in both the content and structure of management development.

Michel Syrett

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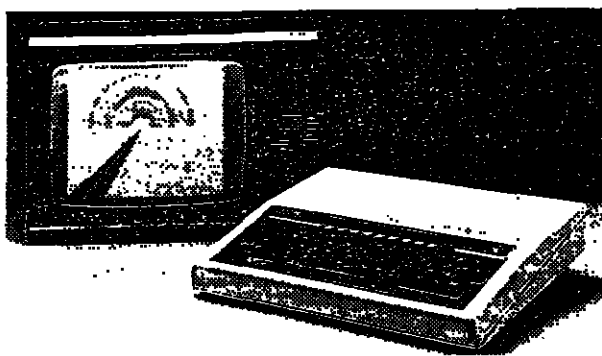
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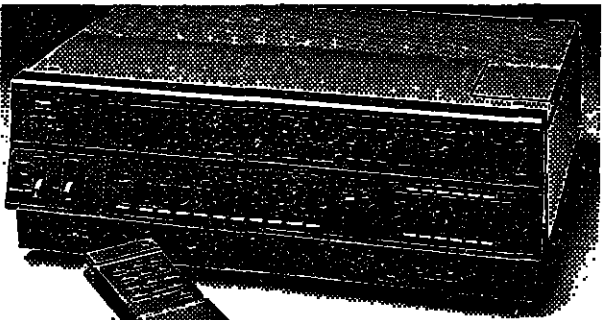


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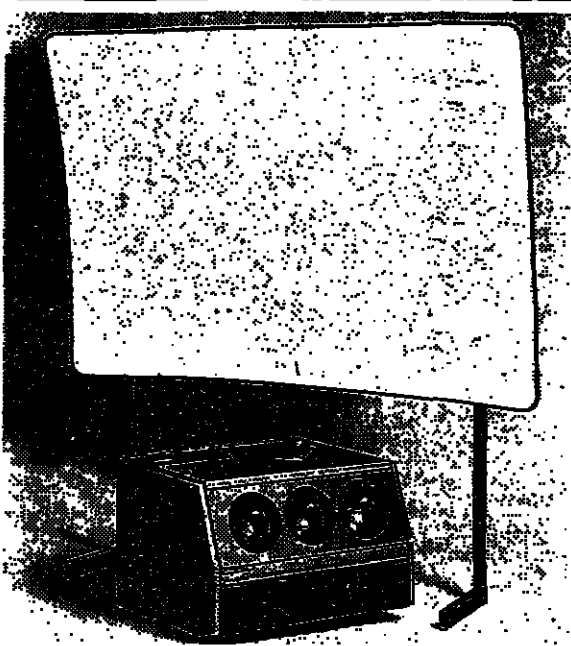
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## EDUCATION AND TRAINING

# Finding a fresh look approach

"If this trend continues, I can see a situation where there will be thousands of consultants grubbing around for business and no employees left to give it to them."

The (tongue-in-cheek) comment was from a recent seminar on flexible working organised by the South Bucks branch of the Institute of Personnel Management. The trend is the growing number of training specialists who are setting up on their own.

Training consultants have played an important part in management development in the past decade. There are a number of reasons: dissatisfaction with conventional management training; the need for more specialised and tailored programmes; and in particular the growing tendency for shrinking personnel departments to contract out training responsibilities which were previously fulfilled in-house.

The demand has been met because training consultants are fairly easy to set up: provided the right skills and knowledge are already there. Many of the newer consultants are small, based at home or in improvised offices, and therefore flexible and independent in their outlook.

Chris Elgood, whose consultancy develops simulations, behavioural exercises and management games, explained why.

"The smaller people have more opportunity because they don't have to conform to a company image. You are not obliged to provide 'the word according to...' You are free to take your own line."

The range of courses offered by the consultants on the market vary enormously, but



Training in action: Nicholas Vesey persuading a student to "Get that order"

there is a particular emphasis towards communication skills, career and occupational guidance, redundancy and pre-retirement counselling and sales training. In a booming market, there is a tendency to stick to specific, personally developed programmes.

"When we set up in business ten years ago, we offered as wide a range of seminars as we could," explained Rosemary Gould, who with her husband Philip Gould runs a consultancy specialising in skills with people which recently advised Video

Arts on the making of *More Bloody Meetings*. "Gradually we realized that in a highly competitive market it would be better for us to specialize", she continued. "It has taken us several years to develop a distinctive approach and to establish a reputation as specialists."

Training and Development Approaches (TDA) is a good example of the newer breed of consultancy. Its founder, Chris Dunn, was formerly a regional personnel manager and then manager of International Development

for Rank Xerox. Its clients include the National Trust, Gallagher and Rank Xerox and Mr Dunn also worked with Michael Bretherton of Enterprise Counselling Services Ltd to develop a redundancy counselling workbook programme *Making Redundancy Work For You*, published earlier this year.

Mr Dunn confirmed Mr Elgood's conclusion that working as a consultant promotes a more lateral outlook. "Much of our work is quite simply based on the 'fresh look' approach. It's amazing how you can look at a personnel or training problem from within and find it literally impossible to separate yourself from how things have been in the past."

Many training consultancies have arisen naturally from the mainstream activities of a larger mother company. The classic example in the 1970s was Legal & General who originally provided high-grade pre-retirement counselling to their employees and progressed to offering the same service first to their clients and then to the outside business world.

A more recent example is Programmes Training Ltd. Their courses arose from the highly successful telephone marketing company Programmes Ltd started by art therapist Elizabeth Gluck in 1981, which now has an annual turnover of more than £2,000,000.

Chris Elgood, Rosemary and Philip Gould, Chris Dunn and Jeff Martin all look forward to a decade when their skills will be increasingly in demand. In the age of the consultant, the trainer reigns supreme.

Michel Syrett

## Is this the way to change education?

There is the feeling among some teachers and many MSC officials that the standard educational system is failing lots of young people by its emphasis on academic values rather than encouraging an active and creative attitude towards life. "Learning for doing" (and "learning by doing") are the watchwords of TVEI as contrasted with the belief in "learning for its own sake" which is embodied by the traditional system.

Much of the criticism of the

scheme is based on misunderstanding which isn't helped by some of the wilder enthusiasms of TVEI's supporters.

The aim of one LEA's TVEI co-ordinator, for example, is to ransack A level French of all its literature and replace it with "something more useful."

Each LEA's TVEI scheme is different with some emphasising the technical skills and others personal development. All of them, though, are strong on areas like computer applica-

tion, work experience, and understanding industry.

One of the major upshots of TVEI has been the introduction into schools of new courses of vocational education. A number of the awards of the City and Guilds of London Institute, for example, have been seized on keenly as a way of preparing youngsters better for the outside world.

City and Guilds itself has responded positively to the opportunity of making a contribution to schools' work and it looks as if very fruitful progress will result from this cooperation.

Active monitoring of progress within the scheme is being undertaken by the MSC's TVEI unit and it will be interesting to see how it develops.

Edward Fennell

Today, Dickens' words ring as true as ever. It's a sad fact that despite our advances in so many other areas, over 80% of Britain's managers have still had no formal management training.

Not through complacency or idleness. It's simply that today's good managers are either too busy to attend full-time courses, or their companies' budgets do not stretch quite far enough.

Henley Distance Learning solves both these problems – and a great many more. Briefly, Henley Distance Learning is a series of courses designed to make good managers better, by giving them their own training 'package'.

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"As good people's very scarce,  
what I say is make the most on 'em"

CHARLES DICKENS

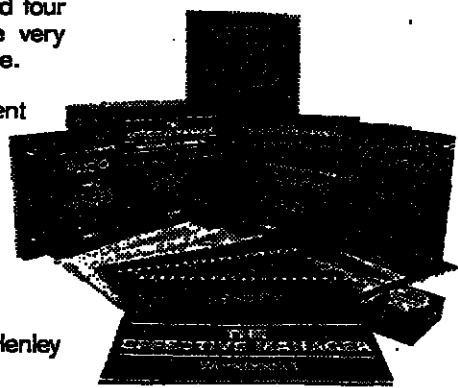
Each course is centred on a superbly produced video, combined with a completely self-sufficient 'work station', containing well illustrated texts and audio cassettes. Utilising actual case histories, they are professionally produced, practically based and above all, fun to do! There is a network of regional counsellors in the field, and companies can arrange for their own in-house counsellors too. Any questions that need a quick response can be phoned through on the Henley Hot-line.

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THE TIMES  
FINANCE AND INDUSTRY  
Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

# Why the unemployed are always with us

No discussion about unemployment is complete without a puzzled businessman for the South-East inquiring why he cannot get anyone to mow his lawn. This seemingly trivial question about unemployment needs to be taken seriously, because it contributes to a view that rising proportion of Britain's unemployment is in some sense voluntary.

The first piece of evidence advanced for this view is that unemployment has continued to rise even as employment has finally started to increase. In 1983, the number of jobs in Britain went up by about 150,000 (according to the Government's admittedly rough estimate) but unemployment rose by about the same figure.

Only part of this 300,000 rise in the labour force (those in work plus those registered for it) can be explained demographically. The number of school-leavers did exceed the number of workers retiring but only by about 120,000. The remaining explanation is that the jobs were filled not by those on the unemployment register but by those in the penumbra of unrecorded job-seekers.

Britain is prone to this kind of statistical quirk because its unemployment statistics consist only of social security claimants; in many other countries (for example, the United States), they are based on household surveys designed to search out the full demand for paid work.

It is a normal trend during economic recovery for the labour force to begin to rise as employment picks up; and it is exacerbated by another natural feature of recovery, which is less easy to establish statistically, for obvious reasons. This is the effect on small cash businesses in the black economy, when times are good, or at least getting a little better, more of them reach the point at which it is worthwhile entering the formal world of national insurance and VAT forms, which means that some employment is switched into the official statistics.

These normal developments have attracted particular notice because unemployment has gone on rising right through three years of (modest) growth of output, with only a short pause last year. Admittedly, the increase is small now; only a rise of about 8,000 in the underlying, seasonally-adjusted figure last month, compared with flows on and off the register which each exceed 300,000 a month. Even so, it is beginning to look as if the total will go on creeping right through its economic recovery.

In a simple sense this needs no explanation: growth is slow, productivity is rising fast, therefore employment is growing only slowly. Clearly, the best answer would be for the British economy to grow faster. But that does not quite answer the question as to why so many of the small bonus of extra jobs are not being filled from the dole queue.

The first answer appears to be that many of the new jobs are coming in the service industries; and that many of them are for part-time work. The second, related answer is that many of them went to women: it is estimated that female employment rose 160,000 last year, while male employment fell 120,000. (There was some partial compensation for this trend in the fact that self-employment among men increased by 80,000; only 20,000 among women.)

Proportionately fewer unemployed women feature in the unemployment

statistics. This is still true, even though the proportion has been increasing steadily through the decade, as more women became eligible for social security benefits. Therefore a rise in what are traditionally "women's jobs" has gone in, large proportion to those who did not figure in the official unemployment figures.

But that still does not quite give all the answers. Why did those on the dole not apply for, or get, these new jobs? Part of the answer here relates to the structure of social security, and of this the Government should take note. And part of it relates to the level of real wages - of which the government is always telling everyone else to take note in turn.

On the whole, part-time work is less well-paid than full-time, which is one of the reasons why it has traditionally been left to women. Since the Chancellor is fond of explaining that lower real wages are the key to higher employment, he presumably does not disapprove of employers attempting to cut costs. But if that is so, he should do more to ensure that those squaring in Britain's mortally-nasty long dole queue get their fair share of such limited employment opportunities as are now appearing.

A comforting argument is that it does not matter if most of the jobs are going to those off the register, because they are often the wives of those on the dole. Unfortunately, survey evidence suggests this is not true. Married men who are unemployed are statistically the most likely to have wives who are not working (and this is also partly a consequence of the way social security works). Moreover, a disproportionately small number of the recorded unemployed are married anyway.

Most of the discussion of "voluntary" unemployment concentrates on what are called "replacement ratios" - the proportion of normal take-home pay someone out of work can expect to receive in benefit. A good deal of statistical work has been done on replacement ratios, although there are still a long way from understanding how they influence people's behaviour, and what levels are critical in the decision to take a job. But the figures suggest such ratios are really high only for a very small proportion of the unemployed. This is because benefits are naturally highest for families, and only 15 per cent of the unemployed have children.

What is more, recent calculations by the Institute of Fiscal Studies suggest that replacement ratios have been falling, not only since the Government made changes to the benefits system in the early 1980s, but over a much longer time scale. The IFS calculations also suggest that only about 2 per cent of heads of families have ever faced long-term "replacement ratios" of over 90 per cent.

But all these calculations relate to full-time earnings. The social security system has always been singularly ill-suited to support those who can find part-time work and not a full-time job. It is not easy to put this right without creating other distortions and disincentives in the system. But if this is where the jobs are coming, the system must be adjusted to help the registered jobless benefit from them.

Sarah Hogg  
Economics Editor

## THE GILT-EDGED MARKET

# Reducing the Bank's bill mountain

The highly unusual statement by the authorities nearly two weeks ago to the effect that there was "no need on monetary policy grounds for any general increase in the level of domestic interest rates", can only have hardened the expectations among sceptical market operators that rates were set to rise. That rise has now taken place, with base rates and three-month money rates both up three-quarters of a point over the last week, and yields on shorter dated gilt-edged stocks rising by up to a quarter of a point.

The authorities were, however, quite correct in their analysis, at least on this occasion. Certainly the important monetary aggregates have not been behaving in a way which would justify higher rates. The narrow money target, Mo, is well within its target range, while the growth of sterling M3 over the past six months is below the top of its new target range.

Obviously, the main reason for the rise in short term interest rates has been the weakness of sterling. Towards the end of last week it was not merely that the dollar was very strong, but that sterling began generally to weaken against other currencies too. If this foreign exchange pressure has now been removed by the rise in interest rates, domestic considerations will again become decisive.

Among these considerations the most immediate factors are the possibility of an early and reasonable settlement of the miners' strike and the monetary data for the banking month to mid-June. Market forecasts for the latter are pessimistic, with expectations for sterling M3 ranging from an increase of 0.75 per cent to one of 2 per cent. The lower end of this range

looks more reasonable but, as regards bank lending, the data might well be misleadingly optimistic.

In April and May, the gilt-edged market became nervous about bank lending, which had been rising on average by almost £1,400m a month between mid-October and mid-April. This buoyancy of bank lending, however, occurred at a time when the Bank of England's holdings of commercial bills rose by nearly £3,000m. When the Bank purchases bills, their price tends to rise and, therefore, the bill rate falls.

## Gordon Pepper

A sufficient fall in bill rates relative to wholesale money rates makes so-called "bill arbitrage" profitable. This means that a company can issue a commercial bill paying a relatively low rate of interest, and then place the proceeds on deposit with a bank receiving a higher rate of interest. The company makes an arbitrage profit, which is small but virtually riskless.

The only hazard concerns the financial reliability of the bank receiving the deposit. The special significance of bill arbitrage for the gilt-edged market is that it inflates artificially the bank lending figures, to which the market is sometimes very sensitive.

On our calculations it was possible for companies to engage in profitable bill arbitrage transactions from October 1983 to April of this year. The rate of profit varied over that period and was generally small, but it was sufficiently large to be significant in January and April. No one knows the extent to which companies took advantage of these possibilities but it is more than a coincidence that

over the period from October 1983 to April 1984 bank lending averaged nearly £500m a month more than over the previous six months. Further, profitable bill arbitrage possibilities tailed off after April and have subsequently disappeared. It is highly relevant that bank lending in May was sharply lower than in March and April.

It will be no surprise to learn that bank lending in June was also significantly below the average for recent months. This would be further evidence that stable arbitrage positions have been unwound, temporarily deflating the lending figures. (A technical qualification that might complicate tomorrow's figures is the fact that the authorities are scheduled to announce their new estimates of seasonal adjustment factors.)

At first sight, it seems strange for the Bank to hold these commercial bills. In order to raise the finance necessary to buy them, the Bank issues gilt-edged stock, and the yield paid on these issues is normally greater than the return on the commercial bills. The Bank's net loss on the transactions in 1983-84 was very probably in excess of £100m. The loss is, of course, ultimately borne by tax payers.

The reason why the Bank has acquired such a large holding of bills is complicated. In order to make loans, banks have to raise finance, which they normally do by bidding for short-term deposits. The difficulty occurs when the necessary amount of deposits

The short-term palliative - which the authorities have adopted since 1980 - is for the Bank to transfer onto its own books whatever amount of bank

lending would lead to excessive growth of the money supply.

The durable solution to the problem would be for companies to raise less finance in the form of borrowing from banks. In the 1950s and 1960s, companies raised substantial finance by making fixed interest issues on the Stock Exchange.

When the Bank issues a gilt-edged stock and purchases commercial bills, gilt-edged yields tend to rise and commercial bill rates tend to fall. The rise in the yield on gilt-edged stock increases the rate of interest at which a company is able to issue a corporate bond. The fall in the commercial bill rate exerts downward pressure on money market rates in general and on the base rates of banks in particular.

The process, therefore, discourages the issuing of corporate bonds and encourages the demand for bank loans. The purchase of commercial bills by the Bank is, therefore, a classic example of action taken with the best of intentions in the short run which has a perverse effect in the medium term.

The Bank of England's holdings of commercial bills are a superb candidate for privatization. A sale could raise almost £10 billion. This would be much greater than British Telecom which is expected to raise some £4 billion, easily the largest privatization so far. The sale of the Bank's bill mountain would be more than enough to finance the whole of this year's PSBR.

If only these holdings could be sold, the Bank would not have to issue any gilt-edged stock for quite a while. To put it mildly, this would be of great importance for gilt-edged investors.

Gordon Pepper is joint senior partner of W. Greenwell & Co, the stockbroker.

# Opec may demand greater interest rate stability

By David Yoning and Michael Prest

Demands for stable world interest rates in return for continued oil price stability will be one of the main issues raised at tomorrow's ministerial meeting of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries in Vienna.

Opec's economists have prepared a report which falls short of saying that oil prices should be related to US interest rates, but which suggests that Opec should call on the world banking community to bring down interest rates for loans to the less developed countries.

Venezuela and Ecuador among Opec members are being badly affected by rising interest rates on foreign debts and will call for a reform of the international financial system.

Broader economic issues

such as this will figure largely on the Opec agenda. Only Iran is expected to suggest a price increase. The Iranians have, however, already said that they feel the present Opec quota system of production agreed a year ago in London should remain unchanged.

Their oil minister, Mr Mohammad Gharazi, said before leaving for Vienna, that he considers the present quota ceiling "appropriate" and that change, if any, should only concern price.

He said that the Iranian economy could now operate without oil revenues, but confirmed suggestions by BP that Iran is prepared to compensate oil companies buying Iranian cargoes for the increased insurance fees re-

quired for tankers now entering the Gulf.

Mr Qassem Ahmed Taqi, the Iraqi oil minister, said in Baghdad yesterday that his country would press for a higher individual quota if Opec as a whole raised its output ceiling of 17.5 million barrels a day (bpd).

But Opec production was 18.2mbpd last month, and according to the International Energy Agency, the body set up by industrial oil consumers to coordinate policy and monitor the market, Opec output for the second quarter ran at 19mbpd.

Nigeria, the most heavily-populated Opec member, and the United Arab Emirates both want bigger quotas. Mr Mansour Othman, the UAF petroleum minister, would like the

conference to examine the differentials between the market price of \$29 a barrel for Saudi Arabian light crude and other crudes.

Plans for linking oil prices to inflation in industrial oil importers have been aired before. They have broken down because of technical difficulties and the reluctance of some Opec members to constrain future prices.

Suggestions that oil prices be linked in some way to interest rates ignore the fact that Opec members such as Saudi Arabia and the Gulf producers, which have large cash balances dominated in dollars have benefited from both the high interest rates and the appreciation of the dollar.

# Maxwell sets Mirror deadline

By William Key  
City Editor

Mr Robert Maxwell last night set a deadline of 5pm on Tuesday for his £80m offer for Mirror Group Newspapers to be accepted. A spokesman for Mr Maxwell, chairman of Pergamon Press, said the offer is now "wholly unconditional".

Mr Maxwell said: "I cannot have made it easier for Reed to accept our offer. The conditions in our offer of July 3 are withdrawn. £80m in cash is immediately available to them if they wish and I will take on the problems of the Mirror Group and expect to realize its potential."

The board of Reed International, the paper, publishing and building materials group, is due to meet today amid a growing furor over its plans to dispose of Mirror Group Newspapers, its national newspaper



Sir Alex: Concern for shareholders' interests.

subsidiary controlling the Daily and Sunday Mirror, Sunday People, Sporting Life and the Scottish Daily Record and Sunday Mail.

Some of Reed's institutional shareholders are angered by weekend press suggestions that

for three years no one will be allowed to exercise more than 15 per cent of the votes in MGN if it is floated on the stock market.

This could severely depress the price of MGN shares. It would, as the clause clearly intends, rule out a takeover of MGN for those three years, removing some powerful potential buyers of the shares.

Reed has so far rejected Mr Maxwell's approach.

But Sir Alex Jarratt, Reed's chairman, is also conscious that he must not be seen to be neglecting the interests of his own shareholders. It can be shown that Mr Maxwell really is offering more for MGN than a flotation would produce, then Sir Alex must come up with strong reasons for continuing to reject Mr Maxwell.

No one was available at Reed yesterday for comment.

# Grindlays and broker set to link

By Ian Griffiths

Negotiations between Grindlays, the international bank, and Capel-Cure Myers, the brokers, to arrange their link-up are now nearing completion and an announcement of the formal agreement of terms is expected later this week.

Technical and legal details of the deal have proved to be complex and have prevented an earlier conclusion of the arrangements which will see Grindlays take a 29.9 per cent stake in the broking house, the maximum permitted under current rules.

Talks have been going on for several months, but they were delayed by the £12m takeover bid for Grindlays from the Australia and New Zealand Banking Group which was accepted last month. ANZ has already announced that it is to take a 50 per cent stake in an Australian broking firm.

Capel-Cure Myers recognized that it would need additional funds to help finance the development and expansion of its business over a year ago. Several possible ways of raising the finance were considered before it was decided to opt for selling a stake to an outside financial institution.

# Rebel brokers seek vote on all SE reforms

By Philip Robinson

A group of small and medium-sized stockbroking firms is to press for all Stock Exchange reforms to be put to a general vote of members before they are forwarded to the Government.

The rebel brokers, fresh from their triumphs in last month's Stock Exchange Council elections, are now working on the details of a campaign.

They feel that although 70 per cent of member firms might be in favour of abolishing the existing system and replacing it with some form of dual capacity, the 4,000-strong membership is not

The rebels are confident of being granted a meeting with Mr Norman Tebbit, the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry. A spokesman for the group said they wanted to impress on him the dangers of having something "botched" if the reforms continued to move at the present speed.

The group is looking at electronic dealing systems, which may provide a method of keeping the single capacity system in second line, stocks, while allowing the leading international equities to be dealt on a dual capacity basis by the top 20 or so firms.

# "AN ACCELERATING PROGRAMME OF EXPANSION AND ACQUISITION"

Pre-tax profits (excluding property profits) up 28% this year  
- more than double two years ago

Pre-tax profits (including property profits) up 12% this year  
- up 56% over two years

11 strategic moves since March last year

Final dividend to be increased by 15%

## PRELIMINARY RESULTS 1983/84

The Group profit before tax (excluding property profits) increased by 28% from £12.6m. to £16.8m. Including property profits of £240,000 (£2/83: £1983m.) the total profit before tax rose 12% from £14.8m. to £16.8m.

The interpretation of results in previous years has tended to be confused by property profits. Following the disposal of Key Markets, the position is much simplified. The exclusion of these one-off contributions gives a clear indication of the progress made by the Group last year.

During the last eighteen months your Board has implemented a number of strategic moves designed to increase profits and is engaged in an accelerating programme of expansion and acquisition. This has changed the shape of the Group's business and the way it is managed. It is encouraging to record that the Group's pre-tax profit (excluding one-off property profits) has more than doubled from £6.9m. two years ago on turnover which is down a third to £471m. In that period the Group's pre-tax profit (including property) is up 56% from £10.3m. to £16.8m.

There are three main elements to the approach which we have pursued -

- the disposal of businesses which do not perform or are not compatible with our core of food manufacturing and distribution

- the acquisition of companies in fields complementary to our core activities
- the development of a strong management team.

## DIVIDEND

The Board has recommended a final dividend of 6.7p net per ordinary share, an increase of 15% and an equivalent increase in the total dividend for the year.

Geoffrey Hanks  
Chairman and Chief Executive.

5th July 1984

## FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

	52 weeks ended 28th April 1984	1983/84	1982/83
		£000	£000
Profit before tax (excluding property profits)	15,898		12,620
Property profits	240		1,963
Profit before tax	16,138		14,603
Earnings per ordinary share	16.34p		16.01p



# Fitch Lovell

The Annual Report 1984 will be published late August. For a copy please return this coupon to the Secretary, Fitch Lovell PLC, 1 West Smithfield, London EC2A 4LA. (BLOCK CAPITALS)

Name

Address

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STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

Capitalization and week's change

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began July 2. Dealings End, July 13.5 Contango Day, July 16. Settlement Day, July 23.  
5 Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.  
(Current market price multiplied by the number of shares in issue for the stock quoted)

THE TIMES  
*Portfolio*  
TODAY'S DIVIDEND PRICE  
£2.000  
Claims required for  
+44 points  
Claimants should ring 0254-53272

THE TIMES  
*Portfolio*

From your Portfolio card check your eight share price movements. Add them up to give you your overall total. Check this against the daily dividend figure published on this page.

If it matches you have won outright or a share of the total daily prize money stated. If you are a winner follow the claim procedure on the back of your card.

No.	Company	Price	Ch'ge	Gross
		Friday	Week	Div
<b>INDUSTRIALS-Z</b>				
1	Spur & Jackson	17.25	0.00	0.00
2	Toddlin	17.25	0.00	0.00
3	Spur & Jackson	17.25	0.00	0.00
4	Wolverhampton	17.25	0.00	0.00
5	Suez Canal	17.25	0.00	0.00
6	Suez Canal	17.25	0.00	0.00
7	Suez Canal	17.25	0.00	0.00
8	Suez Canal	17.25	0.00	0.00
<b>INDUSTRIALS-E</b>				
9	Suez Canal	17.25	0.00	0.00
10	Suez Canal	17.25	0.00	0.00
11	Suez Canal	17.25	0.00	0.00
12	Suez Canal	17.25	0.00	0.00
13	Suez Canal	17.25	0.00	0.00
14	Suez Canal	17.25	0.00	0.00
15	Suez Canal	17.25	0.00	0.00
16	Suez Canal	17.25	0.00	0.00
17	Suez Canal	17.25	0.00	0.00
18	Suez Canal	17.25	0.00	0.00
19	Suez Canal	17.25	0.00	0.00
20	Suez Canal	17.25	0.00	0.00
<b>PROPERTY</b>				
21	Suez Canal	17.25	0.00	0.00
22	Suez Canal	17.25	0.00	0.00
23	Suez Canal	17.25	0.00	0.00
24	Suez Canal	17.25	0.00	0.00
25	Suez Canal	17.25	0.00	0.00
26	Suez Canal	17.25	0.00	0.00
27	Suez Canal	17.25	0.00	0.00
28	Suez Canal	17.25	0.00	0.00
29	Suez Canal	17.25	0.00	0.00
30	Suez Canal	17.25	0.00	0.00
<b>INDUSTRIALS-A-D</b>				
31	Suez Canal	17.25	0.00	0.00
32	Suez Canal	17.25	0.00	0.00
33	Suez Canal	17.25	0.00	0.00
34	Suez Canal	17.25	0.00	0.00
35	Suez Canal	17.25	0.00	0.00
36	Suez Canal	17.25	0.00	0.00
37	Suez Canal	17.25	0.00	0.00
38	Suez Canal	17.25	0.00	0.00
39	Suez Canal	17.25	0.00	0.00
40	Suez Canal	17.25	0.00	0.00

Weekly Dividend

Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £2,000 in Saturday's Newspaper.

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	WEEKLY

BRITISH FUNDS

Stock	Price	Ch'ge	Int	Gross
		Friday	Week	Div

SHORTS

Stock	Price	Ch'ge	Int	Gross
		Friday	Week	Div

MEDIUMS

Stock	Price	Ch'ge	Int	Gross
		Friday	Week	Div

LONGS

Stock	Price	Ch'ge	Int	Gross
		Friday	Week	Div

BANKS DISCOUNT HP

Stock	Price	Ch'ge	Int	Gross
		Friday	Week	Div

ELECTRICALS

Stock	Price	Ch'ge	Int	Gross
		Friday	Week	Div

Capitalization Company Price Ch'ge Gross Div

		Friday	Week	Div

BUILDING AND ROADS

Stock	Price	Ch'ge	Int	Gross
		Friday	Week	Div

FINANCE AND LAND

Stock	Price	Ch'ge	Int	Gross
		Friday	Week	Div

CHEMICALS, PLASTICS

Stock	Price	Ch'ge	Int	Gross
		Friday	Week	Div

CINEMAS AND TV

Stock	Price	Ch'ge	Int	Gross
		Friday	Week	Div

DRAPERY AND STORES

Stock	Price	Ch'ge	Int	Gross
		Friday	Week	Div

INDUSTRIALS A-D

Stock	Price	Ch'ge	Int	Gross
		Friday	Week	Div

INDUSTRIALS E-K

Stock	Price	Ch'ge	Int	Gross
		Friday	Week	Div

Capitalization Company Price Ch'ge Gross Div

		Friday	Week	Div

FINANCIAL TRUSTS

Stock	Price	Ch'ge	Int	Gross
		Friday	Week	Div

FOODS

Stock	Price	Ch'ge	Int	Gross
		Friday	Week	Div

HOTELS AND CATERERS

Stock	Price	Ch'ge	Int	Gross
		Friday	Week	Div

INDUSTRIALS L-R

Stock	Price	Ch'ge	Int	Gross
		Friday	Week	Div

INDUSTRIALS S-Z

Stock	Price	Ch'ge	Int	Gross
		Friday	Week	Div

INDUSTRIALS

Stock	Price	Ch'ge	Int	Gross
		Friday	Week	Div

INDUSTRIALS

Stock	Price	Ch'ge	Int	Gross
		Friday	Week	Div

Capitalization Company Price Ch'ge Gross Div

		Friday	Week	Div

INSURANCE

Stock	Price	Ch'ge	Int	Gross
		Friday	Week	Div

LEISURE

Stock	Price	Ch'ge	Int	Gross
		Friday	Week	Div

Mining

Stock	Price	Ch'ge	Int	Gross
		Friday	Week	Div

INDUSTRIALS

Stock	Price	Ch'ge	Int	Gross
		Friday	Week	Div

INDUSTRIALS

Stock	Price	Ch'ge	Int	Gross
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INDUSTRIALS

Stock	Price	Ch'ge	Int	Gross
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INDUSTRIALS

Stock	Price	Ch'ge	Int	Gross
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Capitalization Company Price Ch'ge Gross Div

		Friday	Week	Div

INDUSTRIALS

Stock	Price	Ch'ge	Int	Gross
		Friday	Week	Div

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Capitalization Company Price Ch'ge Gross Div

		Friday	Week	Div

INDUSTRIALS

Stock	Price	Ch'ge	Int	Gross
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Stock	Price	Ch'ge	Int	Gross
		Friday	Week	Div

Capitalization Company Price Ch'ge Gross Div

		Friday	Week	Div

INDUSTRIALS

Stock	Price	Ch'ge	Int	Gross
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Stock	Price	Ch'ge	Int	Gross
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Stock	Price	Ch'ge	Int	Gross
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Stock	Price	Ch'ge	Int	Gross
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Stock	Price	Ch'ge	Int	Gross
		Friday	Week	Div

INDUSTRIALS

Stock	Price	Ch'ge	Int	Gross
		Friday	Week	Div

INDUSTRIALS

Stock	Price	Ch'ge	Int	Gross
		Friday	Week	Div

Bank of Scotland  
Rate

Standard  
Entered







































